Transcription of Epaphras Hoyt Journal April-Sept. 1846

Continuation from a bound book No. 20, page 60 for the year 1846

1846 April 1846

Our Farmers

Comply ment of

Habits of

Their home

Wednesday: Morn fair; wind N. wind; day fair & mild air

Our farmers will soon be employed in turning up their soil, planting their seeds, and on the usual business of husbandry. For this commendable employment they are well prepared; and it is hoped that the rashness of the ruling party in the United States will not plunge them into a war, and call them into the field to wield implements with which they are unacquainted. Our meadows though cultivated for about 170 years, still retain their fertility, though they require more manureing then when the enriching floods were frequent; and if duly cultivated here after, they will continue to produce valuable crops so long as the present order of nature continued. When I was a lad scarcely a day, of suitable weather, past without laboring in these fertile bottoms. At noon we took our repast, consisting of the cold dish of the previous day, or the warm pot luck? sent us by the frugal mother, under the spreading branches of the[nut] tree, and quenched our thirst from the rundlet of family beer, or of cool water from a distant spring. After our repast we sometimes took a short nap upon the grass, shaded by the spreading tree.

In short the meadow was our home and the parental mansion house our sleeping place at night. If our labor was sometimes exhausting, we regained our vigor by a night's sweet repose.

This

April 1

Conditions in the Revolutionary War

This condition of our farmer's continued until the commencement of our Revolution in 1775, when other objects were brought to view. We heard of [ ] Battles & skirmishes at a distance, but we still continued our labor in our peaceful meadow, and obtained support by our industry, though deprived of many of our former conveniences. The year 1783 brought us peace and an independent government, but still our independence depends on our industrious cultivation of our valley. Which has now repayed its bounties to the laboring farmer. Let us imitate the industry & virtues of our fathers from? whom we reward the boon.

The contrast

One remark is due. In the times to which I have alluded we heard little of political wranging; our great men were good men, and esteemed for their talents and virtues. In them we placed confidence and thanked them for their faithful services. What a contrast we now behold! Alas! it is feared we have not improved in the noble virtues, which renders man happy in society.

2

Son's journey to N York

Thursday- A fair warm-wind N.E. air cool; day fair & PM wind NW

This morning my son Arthur set out for the city of New York, with a view of obtaining employment on the projected Rail road from the Hudson to Lake Erie. To this business he is much attached, has spent much time in its study, and been previously employed for several years in Massachusetts and Illinois. Should Mr. Polk and his party involve us in war, the rail-road projects will be retarded, if not laid aside & under

April 2

Our Social Library

Consult ation [ ]

Remarks on

Discussion of

All laudable interprise cease. If our people are ready for this state of things, then they have lost their senses, and nothing short of war will cure the madness. This day a number of the proprietors of our Social Library met at my residence, to consult on a new system for the management of the books. It was proposed to divide the Library into---shares and hold them for sale, or annual lease, and to assess taxes from time to time as should be thought expedient. But there was such a diversity of opinion among the members, that nothing was agreed on. Some of the gentlemen thought that shares could not be sold or leased, even at a low rate, and this was attributed to a want of taste in the rising generation. Newspapers, magazines and works of imagination were the only publication called for by the people at large. This, it must be acknowledged is too true; and still we are said to be an enlightened people and making great progress in knowledge. The fact is, a smattering of learning is substituted for general information by the people at large; and is truly accounted for from the multiplicity of our news-papers, which instruct rather than inform the mind.

Indeed, mathematical & philosophical knowledge is held in low estimation if one can read his ticket at an election & tip it into the ballot box under the guidance of his leader, nothing save this is [ ] in a republican.

April 3

Friday Morn fair, winds N. air cool, day fair throughout air moderate

Gaylord on insects

At page 48 of this N. (20) I have entered? a brief notice of Vol. 3 of the New-York Agricultural Society, but have omitted a particular account of Mr. Gaylord's Treatise on Insects in one of the articles of the Vol.

Discussion of the subject

In this treatise Mr. Gaylord divides the insects into four parts. 1st. Insects injurious to the vegetable garden. 2d Insects injurious to field crops. 3d Insects injurious to orchards and fruit trees generally. 4th Insects injurious to Domestic Animals; to which he adds the common and scientific names. In his classification Also Gaylord has given a more simple arrangement than we find in the treatise on Entomology, generally, though not entirely original in its terms.

Classification with 10 orders

The classification is as follows:

1. Coleoptera This order includes all the kinds commonly called beetles. Their wings are hard, of various colors, and protect the true wings from injury.
2. Orthoptera Crickets, grasshopper, locusts &c belong to this order of Insects.
3. Hemiptera—This order includes the froghoppers, bugs, aphids &c. The name means half-wings.
4. Neuroptera—The libellulidae or dragon flies are good representatives of this order
5. Hymenoptera—The ichneumon fly, hornets, bees &c. belong to this order

April 3	6. Lepidoptera—all butterflies and moths are included in this order of insects
Orders continued	7. Strepsiptera—The parasitical insects found on wasps & bees, belong to this order 8. Diptera—The horse, cattle, and house flies, are representatives of this order 9. Suctoria—The flea is the most common insect of this order 10. Parasita—The louse found on man, and those on birds and animals, represent this order.
Bugs & beetles explained	The words bug & beetle are used by many as synonymous but the above distinctions will show that beetles have hard wing cases, while bugs proper have only the rudiments of wings or half wings.
Trans form ations	Most insects are produced from eggs and in their metamorphosis they become the larvae, the pupa, or a chrysalis, and at length a perfect insect. Some few however, do not pass through these transformations, but issue from the egg. mainly in the form they are to maintain through life. The apterous insects, or those without wings, such as the ant, are mostly of this class.
Wonderful process of nature	These transformations are wonderful. Mr. Gaylord says, that from the common [ ] of the cistern of rain water, proceeds the mosquito, from the hairy caterpillar of autumn the beautiful tiger mother, and from the stinking adions(?) found [ ] worm, one

April 3

larvae & pupa state

Mode of changing

Damages to farmers from insects

of the most splendid of butterflies. The stage of life in which the insect becomes of interest to the agriculturalist is the larvae, worm stage. As it is then that they continue the longest, and effect the greatest mischief. At the termination of the larvae state the insect frequently sheds its former casing. becomes motionless and in this state is called pupa. After remaining in this condition for a longer or shorter time, the shell or casing of the pupa cracks and the perfect insect issues to enjoy a few days of new life, propagates its species and die.
Insects, the writer says, cause more loss to the farmers of the U. States, than all other animals, or other causes, and in some instances he points out the remedies to be resorted to; but in general nothing effectual are found.
Mr. Gaylord's treatise is valued & should be read by all.
Most of the treatises on Entomology which I have examined, contain very little more than a mass of Babel technology of little or no use to the people at large. No doubt an Entomologist might amuse himself in this study & become what is called learned. But he would be no more than a learned [ ] to the exclusion of everything else of utility. On the whole, the Vol. contains much useful matter for farmers and others, and evinces a laudable spirit in the government, in aid of its agriculture: Printed at Albany for the assembly, 1844.

4

Saturday Fair morn, wind N and cool air. Day very fair & pleasant, and the ground fast drying and becoming ready for the farmer's plow.

April 4
Winds at this time
The vertical consid erations

Gyratory motion in the atmosphere

opposite sides of continents

Reflections

Congress for the past week

Northerly winds have been common for some time past, as I believe is generally the case at this season of the year. May they not be explained by the sun's action on the earth & atmosphere where it is vertical, or nearly so? The heated air under the sun, rising and flowing off north and south, and the lower dense air rushing towards the equator to keep up an equilibrium, and then a gyratory motion of the atmosphere produced. I know of no explanation so natural as of the cause of the winds at this season. Of this gyratory motion of the atmosphere, I have been convinced from phenomena observed for several years past. Indeed it seems to be a necessary consequence of the sun's action where it is vertical. The prevalence of the westerly winds during the year, I think, must be some way connected with the revolution of the earth on it axis. A reverse revolution might produce opposite winds. The difference of temperature found on the eastern and western sides of the continents in the same latitudes, are very naturally explained by the prevalence of westerly winds. The plan of nature is wisely contrived, and therefore We believe the best. It is therefore our duty to adapt our wants & employments to the laws established by the Creation: an opposite cause is sure to bring distress and misery, which the other would avoid.

Congress. During the past week we have no important proceedings of that body. Are the war preparation proposed by the President, in the hands of committees to be reposted in bills to carry out the plans. The best preparations in the case are a spirit of justice, conciliation, and a disposition to be on friendly terms with neighboring nations; without these we are already in danger.

April 5 Sunday Fair morn, wind W. and clear day. P.M. wind SW. and very clear sky the ground dryind faster, indicating an early spring season.

6 Monday. Thinly clouding morn, wind SW; PM rain & fine air.

General Court

Our General Court is still in session with a multiplicity of business, such as rail road grants and acts of incorporation, I have remarked upon the tardy mode of doing the business by committees. It is stated in a Boston paper that from 12 to 15 gentlemen of the law have been employed by politicians for rail roads &c.

Mode of doing business tardy

This mode takes up much time, and in fact, submits to the decision of Committees what should be left for the two branches. This mode must be corrected, or the Legislature will become a mere registering body of the decision of committees. All petitions might be examined and debated in the branch to which they are presented, and if favorably received, in both branches, handed over to a committee appointed by them for drafting proper bills to pass into laws.

Different mode suggested

If it be said the members of the two branches are not competent to judge of the prayer of petitions then it follows that our system of government is unsound, and that members are elected who are unfit for this business: nay more, that none but gentlemen of the law are qualified to discuss and enact the laws, which is directly opposed to our theory of a government of universal suffrage (see page 67 of this number 20)

The present rush for rail-roads, it is believed will cease in the course of one or two years, and the General Court be left to pursue its ordinary business.

April 7	Tuesday. Morn fair, wind W. P.M. sky hazy and air warm.
Fremonts Report	Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rky mountains in the year 1842, and to Oregon and Northern California in 1843-1844. By Brevet Capt. J.C. Fremont of the Topographical Engineers. 1 vol. 8 vo. pp. 583, with maps & views presented by order of Congress.
Character of the Reports	To all who feel an interest in the accounts of our western regions, this is an important document.
	The explorations were scientific, and the Capt. was furnished with instruments for astronomical observation, by which the latitude and longitude were fixed, probably with considerable precision. In the narratives I find nothing very flattering in relation to the fertility of the region explored, and indeed much of it is represented as barren; some of the Indians finding it difficult to supply their selves with the necessary food excepting in the parts where the Buffalo abound; and those animals will soon cease to exist under the distraction of the hunters
A 3rd Expedition	who annually destroy vast numbers.
	A third expedition is now undertaken by Capt. Fremont in parts further south and his report may be more interesting than his first two. Emigrants who read the reports will find very little inducement to leave their homes on this side of the
Notes	Rocky Mountains & become settlers in Oregon.
Instruments used	Capt. Fremont carried with him the following Instruments: one reflecting telescope; Reflecting circle; 2 sextants; 2 pocket chronometers; one Syphon barometer & 1 Cistern barometer; 6 thermometers and a number of small compasses, transported in a spring carriage.

April 7 Astronomical observations

The altitude of the heavenly bodies was taken by the sextant & artificial horizon, double of course, and longitude by chronometer, [ ], eclipses of Jupiter's satellites or Lunar distances all requiring the nicest observation, and still liable to errors, at the best.

Distances given

Tables of Distances are given in the Reports from the Kansas Landing; the whole from that point to fort Vancouver is 2766 miles. On the Homeward Journey the Missouri river 3700 miles; the march each day generally less than 30 miles and sometimes not exceeding 3 or 4.

Place of Destination

The Kansas river enters the Missouri about 400 miles (by water) from St. Louis on the Mississippi;

The detached route commences at Chacteau's trading house on the right bank of the Kansas about 10 miles above the mouth, and 6 beyond the western boundary of Missouri-Lat. 39.5.59 Long 94, 24, 46; the elevation above the sea about 700 feet.

Assistants & parties of men accompanied the expedition with horses, mules armed with Hall's carbines, & [ ] with a 12 lb howitzer on the 2d expedition; and also 13 carts, one an springs for safe conveyance of instruments. The greatest difficulty seems to have been to transport sufficient provisions for subsistence.

8

Wednesday Cloudy warm with rain & SW winds; Some sun before noon, and the day partially fair.

Since perusing Capt. Fremont's Reports, I am more & more convinced of the absolute

~~absolute folly of [ ] [ ] of the~~

April 8
Emigration to the Columbia River, folly of

folly of emigrating to the Oregon territory, while any quantity of land may be obtained in the Mississippi valley for a dollar & 2.5 cents the acre. and of the best quality. To point out any advantages that would accrue from such a change of residence, is impossible; and in fact none but the independent man will attempt it. According to Captain Fremont the distance from St. Louis is upwards of 3000 miles to the mouth of Columbia River, most of the way through a wild country without roads, bridges or any conveniences on the route; and the cost of the transportation exceeds that of a nice farm on or near the Mississippi, where the country is fast settling by the people of the old states, whose manners, customs & habits are like our own. Capt. Fremont saw several caravans of the immigrants tugging through the wild country, some of whom had lost children by the sickening effects of the miasma of the country; and all must have undergone hardships beyond description; nor will these hardships end on arriving at their destined places. In short the attempt is next to insanity.

Sufferings of the people on the route

The President & his party, may raise the proposed rifle regiments for the protection of this long line of immigration, but will the peaceable farmers of the old states readily consent to pay the cost from this the public treasury? Mr. Polk must keep an eye on this question, not forgetting the power of the people at the ballot box.

9 Thursday Warm fair,--wind S.W. followed by similar weather. Street path nearly clear(?) affording good wheeling.

April 9

Question submitted to me

This day Mr. Samuel Childs and Mr. Rufus Clark owning a lot of land in the Longhill Division both boundary on the top of the East mountain; Said Childs owning the west and said Clark the east part, submitted to me the question what is to be considered the top of the mtn? After hearing their statements and examining the deeds of the parties, I gave it on my opinion that the crest of the steep part of the mountain was, and ought to be, the boundary, even if there were higher knobs of the mountain some distance from the steep part. The eastern declivity of the mountain is abrupt, and the eastern wane gradual. Mr. Clark stated that a bound stone & fence were now standing at the west end of his claim, very near the abrupt declivity, & that he, or his father, had occupied the land, for 28 years to the fence & bound stone which was not denied by Mr. Childs.

Remarks

The fixing of a boundary upon the top of a mountain, is rather indefinite since it may be very irregular, or zig-zag; & include mountain. A more definite line would prevent disputes. This may be fixed by compass, or by known permanent objects. In doubtful cases long occupancy is perhaps the best guide.

10

Friday. Fair main wind SW. followed by a fair day, rather cool air.

Mr. McDuffee's position

Congress. In a speech in the Senate on Oregon, Mr. McDuffee said that "Discovery without settlement gives no title to a country) and that he was astounded at the claim which had been set up on the ground of discovery?" In this position I think him strictly correct.

April 10 Disco very gives us a right

And in the case of a settlement in an uninhabitable coast, in any latitude, what right does this confer to the interior country the same latitude? Why not assume a line in any other direction as a line of longitude or azimuth, suited to the [ ] of the ~~discoverers~~ settlers? But, in the settlement of a place in a country inhabited by the natives no right is obtained, unless it be by the consent of the natives. I am aware that civilized nations disregard the right of the natives, and for this plain reason, they can drive them from their possessions & have the country, vi et armis[1] which is no better than the right of the robber who takes our purse by force. There is but on[e] question in the case, and that is, to what extent a tribe may extend their claims over our uncultivated country? The answer I think, may be: An extent contiguous to their settlement sufficient to afford them subsistence by hunting and fishing &c not claimed by other tribes on the same principles. When first discovered America was spread over with tribes of Indians, sometimes occupying permanent stations, while others were monadic and had no fixed residence; but who will deny the right of all to the land they occupied of necessity for their hunting and fishing. Much has been, and still may be

Indian title loss

Their extent

Original condition of America

[1] Latin for "by force and arms"

April 10

said on this subject; but all I think will result in this; that the Indians are justly intitled to such an extent as they occupy is necessary for their subsistence by hunting & fishing, in cultivation if they choose it.

Just claims of the Indians to territory

As respects titles to the northwest coast of America by us as Europeans. I consider them as extremely doubtful. If individuals of any nation have made settlements without the patronage of their respective governments, they alone and not their nations have assigned the Indians titles, provided the consent of the Indians has been fairly obtained; but this give no right to the interior of the country occupied by other tribes, and best of all, to any line of latitude. Laws concerning the rights of property have been established by civilized nations, but in these the natives have had no hand, and therefore they are not binding upon them.

Settlements how made (?)

In our Declaration of Independence we say as self evident truth "That all men are created equal, that they are induced by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." When these principles shall be full carried out, the Indians, negroes, &c will be allowed to participate in them and liberty will not be confined to a part of the human race.

Gen. Court

Our General Court, it is stated will rise on the 15th instant. The Amherst paper remarks appear on the slow progress of business in that body, arguing in some particulars with my own at page 76. I hope the attention of the public will be awakened on the subject, and remedy be provided.

The

April 10

Odd Fellow Society, petition of

A prudity

Anticipated

Re flec tions

The petitioners to the Legislature from the Odd Fellows secret society have had leave to withdraw their petition for an act of incorporation. It seems the Legislature is not disposed to patronage combinations for secret purposes, unknown to church or state or law or gospel

Christian Watchman

From the obvious purdity and worthlessness of this society, I have heretofore borne any remarks on it. It is made up of the simple part of community, who wish to give themselves consequence by pretensions of secret knowledge; and it explains that a few of our simple clergy have been shown into the purdity. But it is not improbably that we may have from the bubble at the ballet boxes. When freemasonry expired on the murder of William Morgan, I predicted a substitute, and here we have it. Such is man without extended views & enlightened minds. On review of the proceedings of this session of the Legislature, it appears singular that so much naval business should come before it; but the people are full of schemes, many of which are wild and utopian, to say the least; old systems must be abolished for new and untried and [ ] modern improvements have rendered the people wiser than their fathers, and even old arts and sciences are of little worth. All this indicates an uneasiness in the people; and whether they will stop within reasonable bounds is doubtful. In this public disposition, the demagogue finds a wide field for his insidious labor and is encouraged in his cause

April 11 Saturday Cloudy morn with some rain and SW wind; fog on the mountain The rain soon ceased, and the sun was seen most of the day.

Rail road excavations, accidents from

We hear of many accidents that occur in the construction of rail roads. The workmen in making deep excavations through elevation, are after buried under the caving earth from the sides of the excavations. Where the depth is considerable of 20 or 30 feet. A more cautious mode of operation is necessary, but this might in some instances retard the progress of the work; yet [ ] submit it to this than suffer the loss of these useful laborers, most of whom are Irishmen of hardy habits and truly valuable for their industry. One accident of this kind has occurred in this town, but the buried workman survived; and we hear that 6 have recently been killed in the manner at Athol on Miller's river. We hope the rumor is incorrect.

[M]

The construction of a rail-road down the Miller's river seems to linger, and we think it doubtful whether it will be completed. On the multiplication of their roads, I have expressed my opinion. The cost of construction is too great for the people in the interior of the state, and of course the zeal for them will abate. Mr. Whitney's project for a rail road to Oregon is as wild as the country through which it is pass, yet some of our young men and confident that a few years will effect it: the distance about 3,000 miles, according to Capt. Fremont's Report. [P] mortis; [ ] [ ], says the Latin proverb

Whitney's project

April 11

Son Arthur arrived

My Son Arthur arrived this day having made a journey to New City, and then up the Hudson to Whitehall on Lake Champlain, While there he went with a party down to South Bay for fishing. He brings home a fresh Pike of 3 or 4 lbs caught in the bay. The Hudson & Erie Rail road company are not ready to commence operations on their route and are waiting for some transactions in the Assembly of the State of New-York; has left with the company his name as an applicant for employment. He says the general opinion is that we shall have no war with Great Britain for the boundary of Oregon. But how will Mr. Polk manage his war hawks? This is the rub! and it is left for him to settle. At the commencement of the present session of Congress, a party in the house was rife for war; but the check this spirit has revived in the Senate, gives the partial encouragement as well as some assurance of a balance wheel in our machine of government that shall here after regulate the rash measures which many often originate in the more democratic branch of Congress. Without this balancing power we might at this time have been plunged into an unnecessary war; our commerce assailed, our sea coast towns in jeopardy and "bella horrida bella"[2] striding over our once peaceful fields. Thanks to the wisdom of a majority of the Senate, who have then protected us

April 11 against the [ ] of a [ ]. Whose delight is in havock, spoil and reckless gain at the expense of our political rectitude.

12 Sunday Morn cloudy, wind W. and the day generally the same: a small quantity of rain fill.

Paper, ink & pens

Among the minor perplexities I meet in my daily verse, none are more vexatious than the bad paper ink, & pens I use. The paper on which I am now writing is worthless. It has not suddenly absorb the ink which often spreads upon the glossy surface, as when attempting to write on [ ] oiled glass; and to alter a word by taking it from the paper with a penknife and inserting another is irresponsible. I sometimes use the metallic pens but I find them of short duration and often spattering the ink up on the paper. My ink is prepared from the powder of the stones, and is generally too light in its color. The provided ink of the shops is not always at hand, and often too expensive and faulty. For a pen I prefer the larger home goose quill, but those are seldom found in the shops, while others are to high for a common man.

Defects of

Our writing papers fabricated from cotton is inferior to the old linen kind, now not often found at the shops. In short, most of the hand writings of the present day are unintelligible, and the ingredients with which they are recorded, very defective, and perhaps in no instances, more so than my own scribblings.

Art of printing

Before the art of printing was known, books were in manuscript, and great pains were taken by copyists to write a fair hand. Of course books were scarce and expensive. The Chinese, however, claim to have possessed a sort of printing art prior to its discovery in Europe but I believe rather imperfect & adapted to their language characters.

April 13 Monday Fair morn, wind NW. Cloudy in the latter part of the day, air cool

Mr. Webster's speech

Mr. Webster one of our Senators in Congress delivered a speech last week on subjects relating to the Oregon question, in which he noticed the vile and vulgar attacks made on him by certain democratic leaders, for the part he took in the Ashburton, or N.E boundary treaty. The manner in which this treaty is spoken of is most vile and despicable, and nothing so clearly demonstrates the real designs of the war party. They see in the N.E. boundary dispute, an opportunity for gratifying their long cherished disposition for war with Great Britain; but having failed of their dear object, they have once set up the cry, that we surrendered a valuable tract of land to the English government, through its influence over ours, and the object of the party has been to reverse this blind part of democracy to a [ ] or against the peaceable and rational part of society. They with equal turpitude, sign on the Oregon boundary to effect their vile designs, a war with England which they flatter themselves will end in an easy conquest of all the British Colonies in N America. For the course of his remarks Mr. Webster unmasks the vile and vulgar insinuations of the two Senators of New York (Dix & Dickinson) and showed them in their true dress. The speech will probably appear in a pamphlet form. But if it claims the

The Ashburton Treaty

Vile insinuation

Object of the Democrats

April 13

The remedy

Prejudices of England

War [ ]

force of demonstration, our demagogues will continue their [ ] arts, and still blind a portion of the people; and perhaps nothing but a war will bring them back to their senses, and enable them to discern their true interest—an expensive remedy indeed, but it may be the only effective one. From the present aspect of Congress, I think a war with England on the Oregon question, will be aided; but such are the prejudices against the British government, that other causes will be sought; and not many years will elapse before our country will be involved in a war with that powerful nation, with which it is an interest to be on friendly terms. This hostile spirit is dispensable to our nation, and ought to be repudiated; but it is found most prevalent among the democratic part of the people, who are misled by designing men who perceive no charms in a peaceful state of society. But these men, land as they are in their hostile shouts, are not to be relied on.

"When war the demon lifts his banner high, And loud artillery rends the affrighted sky; swords clash with swords, on horses horses rush, Man tramples man, and nations nations crush, Death his vast scythe with sweep enormous wields; And shuddering pity quits the ensanguined fields."[3]

No! These men are there at a safe distance, rioting on the "spoils" and in cases of defeat, cursing the soldiers for want of resolution in fighting the [ ] of liberty and equality," [ ] Bonaparte. Aye! Delenda est Carthago![4] and all this underlines the motto, of the Roman Senator.

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[3] From Erasmus Darwin's poem, *The Temple of Nature*, 1803.

[4] "Carthage must be destroyed!" A popular Latin phrase in the 2nd century B.C.

April 14 — Tuesday. Fair morn, and NW and they day fair and the air cool.

Lease of a place — Yesterday Mrs. Baker removed her quarters to my house, which I have leased to her one year from the 1st of this month, Mr. Graves the lessee last year, declining to have the place earlier. He is then due to me for 13 days use of the house, since the last years lease closed.

Tenant at will — In case of an unlimited lease, the lessee becomes a tenant at will, and cannot be ousted from the place by an action, unless he has three months previous notice from the owner. This so stated by a lawyer. Hence a written lease may be necessary to fix the time without ~~beyond~~ other proof? But will not oral proof of the time be sufficient to bar the lessee from the right of a tenant at will?

Remarks on law — The terms of law, as we find them in books, appear to me in many instances, vague & arbitrary, & the study of law extremely dry & unentertaining to one conversant with other subjects. A lawyer is seldom a natural philosopher, and the latter a lawyer. There seems to be something repellent between the two, the one expanding on precedent and practice, the other on fixed laws of nature, which admit of no variation, as the law of [ ], [ ] &c. But no branch of science gives greater éclat than the study & practice of law; Hence we generally find the profession at the head of our political institutions.

April 15 — Wednesday Morn fair after a small shower, and NW day fair & cool
This day mean solar and apparent time coincident.

Effect of Mr. Webster's speech

Mr. Webster's speech in the Senate last week, seems to have produced some perturbation in the honorable gentlemen who received his castigation for their misrepresentation of the Ashburton treaty. It now remains for them to replace the blinds Mr. Webster has removed from the eyes of their constituents. These gentlemen may at length burn, that their deceptive acts will not pass with impunity in the presence of the eagle eyed members of the Senate—or that as the Latin proverb says: "Those who are anxious to appear wise among the ignorant, usually appears ignorant in the company of the wise." The respectable portion of the people of New York require a more dignified representation in the Senate of the U. States, men whose intelligence and integrity demand respect. The design of the clamour against the Ashburton treaty is obvious, and needs no explanation. As it respects the boundary established by that treaty, every true patriot in the U. States acknowledges its justice & wisdom, and is ready to thank Mr. Webster for the agency he took in the business.

New York Senators nettled

Mr. Webster's [ ]

Fortunately for the U. States, the boundary was adjusted prior to the commencement of the present "pledged" administration.

Pledged

April 15

Mr. Polk's pledge

Pledged, according to Senator Hanagen to maintain the demonstrated claim to the whole of Oregon, is to 54 40, or fight Great Britain [ ] for it [ ] a noble position for a President of the U. States who is bound to "establish justice insure domestic tranquility, and promote general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."[5]

16

Call of an old friend

Thursday Morn fair- wind SW and cool air; the day fine throughout & very clear. Yesterday Joseph Henry Esqr. of Halifax arrived at our house, and this morning left for Boston, which he has for many years visited generally about this season. In him I find one of the true old federalist of the Washington school, who is not twisted about by the utopian theories & innovations of our modern boys who seem to think we are in rapid progress towards perfection in political sentiments, which are to set aside all [ ] systems of government and old modes of thinking, as well as to ask Mr. Henry is fully aware of this wildness of these innovations and holds a steady course in his political opinions. Men of this sort of politicians are [ ] in the United States, as balance wheels in our political machine, now liable to great irregularities, and we fear, to final destruction from new modus operandi.

[5] From the preamble of the Constitution. Hoyt leaves out "provide for the common defense."

April 16 Sheriff Newens And Office seekers Remarks

I am informed that a party is now at work to prevent a reappointment of John Neverss Esqr. to the office of Sherriff of our County in which, I believe he has served with faithfulness and ability, during the term for which he was appointed. This is a specimen of the vacillating tendency of political sentiment at this day. An officer may serve in the most faithful and satisfactory manner, and still be sure of finding enemies, or rather those in want of place. The notion of rotation in office is idle. When an officer has done his duty well, and is still dependable and honest, continue him in office reap the advantages of his experience. To adapt to a different mode, is to throw us into confusion and men of sound judgment and discrimination, will not readily consent to serve in important stations. "When impious men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station." I readily placed my name to a petition to our Governor, asking for Sherriff Newen's reappointment; and I trust his Excellency will perceive at a glance the cause of the complaints against him Viz. the want of place by the applicants.

I'll no say men are villains A';
The real harden'd wicked,
Wha hae nae check but human law,
Are to a few restricked:
But och! mankind are unco weak,
And little to trusted;
If self the wavering balance shake,
It's rarely right adjusted![6]

[6] From Robert Burns' poem *Epistle to a Young Friend*, 1786

April 17 Friday Fair morn, wind SW and the day generally clear.

Plowing commenced

Our farmers have commenced plowing the meadow lands, a time earlier than is common of late years. Early seeding is supposed to be advantageous to some crops, especially those that are not cut by late frosts, which sometimes occur in May & June. Early planted seeds are perhaps less exposed to insects, then those put into the ground late, when the heat of the soil has hatched the predatory insects; and they are said to be most destructive in the larvae state. If their crops could be raised after the insects have passed into the pupa state, would they not be less destructive? But this is impracticable where the whole season is required to bring the crop to maturity. The subject requires careful examination, which might afford light of importance to the farmer. Mr. Gaylord in his prize essay, published in the Transactions of the New-York Agricultural Society Vol. 3d has given some useful hints on the subject which I think are worthy of attention.

Predatory insects

Gaylord's Essay

Supreme Court

Our Supreme Court is in Session at Greenfield this week. Judge Davey is presiding. The important trials at these courts induce many people to attend them, and have the

April 17

loquacious lawyer displays this skill in his pleas, and often charms the people by his oratory; and sometimes obfuscates the judgment of the jury until the fog is cleared away by the charge of the judge.

Judges of Eminent men

The judges of this Court, are generally men of high acquirements, and from their intercourse with the people in all parts of the state, of all descriptions they obtain much knowledge of the human character. In my intercourse with them, I have found them possessed of expanded views on other subjects, not immediately connected with law, and even estimating the value of natural philosophy, so much slighted ~~disregarded~~ by ~~by~~ the gentlemen of the law which acting in lower grades and less extended views Give men of sound ~~real~~ talents, direction in society & they willful their obligations to be good as well as great. This I am aware is contrary to the notions of democracy, which holds that great men are aristocrats and enemies to the common people a most dangerous impression in a republic, and productive of great evil. When great and good men are repudiated, our country is on a rapid march to dishonor and destruction.

Downward course of Democracy

This down-ward course may be slow but it will accelerate like other falling bodies, until it reaches the lowest level, when the people may, too late, perceive their depressed condition fatally riveted upon them & their posterity.

April 17

Report of our state survey

by Mr. Palfrey

A Report of the Astronomical & Trigomenitrical Survey of this state has been made and published by our State Secretary, on th[e] [or]der of the Legislature, with tables & a map. Was this Report made out without consulting Messers. Paine and Borden, from whom it ought to have come? The course is rather singular, and some doubts may be entertained as to the accuracy of the report without their assistance and explanations. The Secretary (Mr. Palfrey), no doubt has dressed out the report in handsome language, but when he came to deal with Chronometer, Spherical triangles, Logarithms &c. it would be singular if he should not have found himself out of place. Where La Perouse sent home the journal of his voyage from Kenseather[7], to the French government, he requested that if it should be published before his return, it might not be printed by a purely literary scholar, who would sacrifice accuracy to well turned periods & elegant style. The request was a wise one, and the final report of the voyage, so far as known was made, I believe by an elite French astronomer. The Secretary may be an astronomer, but, if so, his studies must have been different from those of most of his brother theologians. Mr. Borden's report had previously been published by an astronomical society in Philadelphia & ought to have been inserted in the transactions of our Academy of Arts & Sciences.

See page 118

[7] Probably means the Russian Kamchatka peninsula.

April 18 — Saturday—Fair morn, wind SW. Followed by a clear and warm day; at sun set cloudy, distant thunder, wind NW & [ ] a shower.

Congress — During the past week we have heard of no proceedings of Congress in relation to war preparations as recommended by our "pledged" President. In the House it is said, a bill has [ ] for raising one regiment of rifle men for the protection of the Oregon emigrants, on their march through the woods. But the bill may meet a rebuff in the Senate, who appear not exactly ready to adopt the plans of the President. Therefore, that that body has been a check upon the wild majority of the house, and we look to their continued wisdom to prevent an unnecessary war for a paltry patch of wild land, of no more value to us than an equal area in the moon. With a peaceful & friendly discussion on our part, the dispute might be settled within an hour. But Mr. Polk's pledge must be redeemed, as his party will "bring him so low that the resurrection will not find him." But Carthage must be destroyed, and American Liberty diffused over the world! Yes! Liberty which denies all participation in the government to all who do not believe in the immutable purity of the dominant party, without regard to talent, justice, or virtue. Such a government presents [ ] claims to the esteem of the civilized nations of the world, whose honesty & talents are considered as commendable qualities.

During the last week

Mr. Polk's pledge

Our Liberty, its [ ]

Our

April 18

Essential principles of a republic

Our Government might, indeed, be the best in the world; but when the people become corrupt it is the worst. A [ ] writer in Government (Montesquieu if I mistake not) Says: "Under the Democratical form, public virtue, pervading the hearts and conduct of the whole body of the people, is the animating and sustaining principle. Every selfish and exclusive purpose must be relinquished by the individual; and his country, its glory, and its happiness, must take entire possession of his breast; Proud distinction for popular government! And happy the people among whom it is established, if the principle were a sure consequence of the form!"[8] But where is such a people found, surely not within the United States at the present time.~

Of Progress

So far from this "public virtue" are we, that the reverse constantly presented to our view. We boast of progress, but let it be remembered that progress in not always improvement: it may be the reverse. The French Revolution was progress but it was progress in death & destruction, and in what did it end? We wish not for a restitution of the horrible carnage which paved Europe with bones and deluged the land with blood. From such progress may the people of the United States can be exempted! and it learned duly to appreciate the blessing of peace; and may they

[8] This quote from Montesquieu was probably taken from *The Christian Citizen* by A.D. Eddy, 1843, where it appears word for word on page 15.

April 18

[ ] into oblivion the pretended patriots, who would recklessly plunge them into a needless war, for the gratification of the base passion incompatible with the refinement of a civilized society; and thereby impede the improvements, happiness, and prosperity of our country.

Pretended patriots

19

Sunday Morn fair wind W. and very clear day.
Last night some rain, with lightning and thunder.

Sunday meetings

On Sundays our people generally attend meetings and listen to pulpit lectures on theology, but with different views. In the Unitarian congregation Christianity is presented as a system coincident with the reason of man and natural religion as it appears in the phenomenon of nature, and much stress is laid upon moral principles held to be essential in society. For the Congregation which claims to be of the pure religion of the Bible less stress is laid upon moral obligation and faith and belief, which they do not nor cannot understand is substituted religion. Man, say they, may be strict moralists and good citizens, and still [ ] [——]. In their worship as I have been informed by one of the sect they prey divine adoration to the man Jesus as a God and this is attempted to be reconciled by the jargon of an assumed Society of these persons in one

Various sects (?)

At the day's worship

which

April 19

Internal light

Natural

[ ]

Enthusiasm

Lock on

which they think is favored in the Bible, believing at the same time that they possess internal light from above, which is withheld from a great portion of their fellow beings; and that without this internal light, men are incapable of performing their duty, as of knowing the truth; yet are responsible for their thoughts and actions. In short, that none in what they call a state of nature are incapable of one good action or thought.

When men have arrived at such a belief, it is idle to attempt to reason them out of their mania. Fortunately for the society in which they live, they are generally honest men who have not lost all their moral obligations by the extravagance of the system in which they profess to believe. But when this enthusiasm runs high, they are sometimes seen to disturb the harmony of society by their supposed internal light which defies the bounds of human reason. and cuts off all restraints, excepting those they claim [ ] separates really communicated to their mind from above. All these pretensions may be the impressions ~~results~~ of feeble minds unsettled by fixed principles, or the work of imagination in those or high order on the subject of Enthusiasm See Lock on the Human Understanding, Book 4 Chap 19, Vol. 2, Boston Edition, 1813.

April 20 Monday Morn fair, with NW wind and fair day. My son, wife & little Charles set out for Chicopee Falls, he on a journey from that place to Boston.

Fluttering produced by Mr. Webster's speech

The fluttering among our War Hawks, caused by Mr. Webster's speech in the Senate, is now rife not only among these night birds but among those who have endeavored to render the Ashburton treaty unpopular by false representation held out to gull the people; and they are now sharpening their bills & claws to pounce upon him, and to glut their carnivorous mews. Mr. Ingersall, a member of the House from Pennsylvania, evinces violently under the castigation he has received for his falsehoods in relation to this treaty. This is natural to condemned culprits or as the Poet says,

"No man e'er felt the halter draw,
With good opinion of the law;
Or held in method orthodox
His love of justice, in the stocks;
Or fail'd to lose by sheriff's shears
At once his loyalty and ears"[9]

Every base art will now be resorted to find something to lessen the public esteem for Mr. Webster; and even his school boy indiscretions if any are know, will be brought up in the place of arguments to confute his irresistible deductions.

Not less severe were these friends of the people on the character of Washington when he retired from the Presidency as well on the characters of his compatriots. See Callenders "Prospect" & Burke's & other papers of the times.

[9] From John Trumbull's *M'Fingal*, Canto III

April 20 Whether the people of the United States will much long consent to be guided by pretentions to liberty, is to be seen. In the Revolution in France Jacobinism ran its career and the history of Robespierre records its termination. But Bonaparte, though an enemy to these clans, continued the war they created, until he was whipped in Russia, and prostrated at Waterloo, and finally found himself in exile in St. Helena, where he was no longer able to disturb the repose of the world.

Mr. Webster's fame is well established in the minds of every friend of his country; but some of our Ultra democrats hope for his fall, for daring to detect the falsehoods of some of the leaders of this party, as if he were vulnerable to the attacks of malignity.

Should the time come in which honesty, talent & fidelity shall be the criterion in the selection of men for elevated stations, we may then experience less of low purity of spirit, and become a people deserving the name of republicans, honored abroad & happy at home. How far from this is our present condition! The causes obvious, and requires but a short answer: all are not honest and honorable men seeking the welfare of our country.

In vain then do we look for purity in our elective bodies, since the question at the ballot boxes is not when the candidate is honest & capable, but if he is of our party.

April 21 Tuesday Morn fair, wind SW and a fair day & warm air followed.

Session at the General Court closed

Our General Court closed its session on the 16th instant after 100 days, including Sundays. It is said the session has been a busy one; but would not it be more correct to apply this exclusively to the committees, which the other members have found much business. Previous to the close, it was resolved that each member should be furnished with the trigonometrical map of the Commonwealth. A pretty handsome Bonus; the right of granting which, I confess, I have had some doubts: Why not make other gratuitous grants of the States property? Say lands, with privileges &c in Maine owned by the Commonwealth. But the practice has precedent in this favor, but it may be contrary to the intent and mean[in]g of the Constitution. The members, it is true, fix their pay, and this being determined, seems to preclude a further sum during their term of service. For extra service beyond the usual dates, additional pay may be proper; and here it has been thought that the Committees sitting in the lobbies might justly claim a quid pro quo; but on this ground, would it not be just to deduct from the pay of the unemployed members?

Grant of state map to members

Queries

Pay of members

The pay of two dollars per day out of which about one dollar is to be taken, for banking &c is a small compensation for one qualified for a member: but this is

a

April 21 a necessary consequence of the large representation of the State; and so long as this continues, the pay must be stinted; for the aggregate still amounts to a large sum.

A different mode of transacting the business, as I have suggested (Page 76) would remove the difficulty, shorten the sessions, and employ all the members in their seats. The present cost of a session cannot be much short of 100,000 dollars, a considerable sum for a small state. Putting together the expenses of all the states in our union, and that of Congress, it would amount to an enormous sum for Legislation.

Congress

Congress. The Oregon notice resolution passed the Senate on Thursday last, as offered by Mr. Johnson (of Md.) by a vote of 40 to 14, of whom there were 12 democrats & two whigs in the negative: the resolution authorizing the President to give the notice at his discretion, and recommending further negotiation. The bill, of course, will be sent to the House for concurrence, and will its war hawks insist on Lat. 54.40?—then let them purpose for fight. But the good sense of the Senate will check this impetuosity, and we believe, preserve peace, until some other bone is presented for them to gnaw.

Mexico

In Mexico the aspects are warlike: the opposing armies are said to occupy opposite banks of the Rio Grande, prepared for battle, and nothing but the deranged state of that country prevents a contest.

If

April 21	If in fact Mexico is unable to defend her territory, she may resign her sovereignty and be annexed to the United States—a plan, no doubt, within the views of some
Remarks	of the friends of liberty, in the U. States. This "Progress" by which all men are to be made free, excepting the blacks who were created to be slaves to the whites to be used as horses & cattle.
The next step	The next step in the House will probably be extension of the laws of the United States over the whole of Oregon, with the hope that this may affect them long cherished object—a war with Great Britain; but here the wisdom of the Senate will, it is believed again, interpose & save us from the frenzy of the House. Wise men will keep an eye on the war hawks of that body, and save us from the horrors of a conflict.
Our peaceful citizens	Many of our peaceful citizens see no probability of a war at this time. A more thorough knowledge of Jacobinic democracy would change their views. With the present spirit of the majority of the house of representatives in Congress, how long should we remain in peace without the wisdom of the Senate, which holds in check, the rash impetuosity of that majority? Without that check we maybe at this time been plunged into the depths of a ruinous contest, and in what is would have ended, none can tell. We may however be pretty sure that it would not be
Their false serenity	advantageous to our nation; our influence depending wholly on intercourse & good agreement with the civilized nations of the world, and war on the madness of a party, reckless to our welfare & happiness.

April 21

War of 1812

False notions entertained

The same spirit produced the war of 1812: but it taught us the folly of plunging into to, without being prepared for military operations. At that time it seemed to be the impression of President Madison, that to issue orders to an undisciplined militia was all that was necessary for the conquest of Canada and the protection of our sea coast. The battle of Bladensburg & capturing Washington City convinced him of his egregious error; and he sought peace without regard to the [ ] bone of contention, the right of searching our ships. But the puerile notion of militia prowess is still retained by those who know nothing of war, beyond it show of ribbon, feathers and cockades, the great and important points in the military foppery of the times.

Before we boast of our strength as a military nation, these false estimates must be abandoned, and a portion of our people taught how to fight, by the iron [ ] of discipline, where even the names of republican rights, and liberty and equality, are unknown, ~~and~~ subordination and implicit obedience of orders ~~are~~ instilled into the hearts of the soldiers, whose glory and soul is to obey. When we can show our army of 80 or 100 thousand more of this character, and sufficient arsenals, foundries, magazines and strongly fortified positions we may boast of our prowess, and capacity for war.

April 21 But democracy, looks not to such tardy preparation – she shouts Lexington, Bunkers Hill, Bennington, the spirit of seventy six and is readily to conquer at a blow! shaped delusion! based on profound ignorance of the art of war as now practiced by the warlike nations of Europe when their armies are conducted by a Wellington or a Bonaparte.

22 Wednesday Morn fair, wind NE; day hazy, cloudy at night, wind SW

Mr. Webster's assailants

Among the war birds of President Polk's party, in the house of Representatives, none have exhibited more uneasiness than Mr. C.J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania whom Mr. Webster so severely castigated for his various false statements.

Mr. Ingersoll

Noticing him in his speech, Mr. Webster said, "He sometimes thought the propensity to falsehood in Mr. Ingersoll arose from no malice or design, but from an obtuseness of moral perception, from a sort of habit or education; his mind is so grotesque there is something wanting."[10] And using the expression of mechanics when things are wrong, he added, "a screw was loose, it is shaking, [ ], crazy, out of joint, as often upside down as upside up: it is all ways and no ways"

His history of the last war

Mr. Ingersoll had recently published a history of the war of 1812. From ~~which [ ]~~ one of his speeches Mr. Webster read a statement of some length, and then dec[l]ared the whole a falsehood from beginning to end. Mr. Ingersoll writhes more

[10] Mr. Webster's speech appeared in many newspapers that week, from Massachusetts to North Carolina. It is likely Hoyt is quoting from the newspaper.

April 22

His version

[ ] of them

under the lash, and charges Mr. Webster with being a public [ ] and with every thing vile in the human character. Tells attempt of an irritated man, whose "obtuseness of mind" may now become public, and the character of his book be duly estimated already we have seen a part of his history relating to the naval operations, contradicted by some of its officers. We here leave Mr. Ingersoll to reap the fruits of his <u>honorable</u> course. Other <u>gentlemen</u> might be named who are disposed to assail Mr. Webster with equal rancor. They hate him for his talents & rectitude, but we trust he is invulnerable to the base attacks of his implacable enemies who will never forgive him for the noble and able services he rendered his country in the adjustment of our N.E. boundary, which they had hoped would have produced a war with Great Britain for no better motive than feeding a cannibal appetite.

When these restless men shall cease to disturb the repose of the [ ] and high minded honorable men these take their places in the Councils of our nation, mild peace and its [ ] benefits will continue, and the people, sitting under their "own vines & fig trees" enjoy that happiness intended for rational beings. Among those with all national prejudices the bane of contracted minds & the ready danger of demagogues whose subsistence is anarchy and spoil, & their pastimes the misery of honest citizens.

April 23 — Thursday. Fair morn, and NW. Most of the day was cloudy.

Vegetation advance of — Some of the trees and shrubbery are putting forth, leaves and vegetable nature is "bursting into [ ]!"

"Above, how high, progressive life may go;
Around, how wide! how deep extend below;
Vast chain of being, which from God began,
Natures ethereal, human, angel, man,
Beast, bird, fish, insect! what no eye can see,
No glass can reach! from infinite to thee."[11]

Reflections — By a careful observance of the course of nature the reflecting man finds much for his education, and of in some instances he perceives what he call physical coils, he may distrust his judgment; for "God send, not ill, if rightly understood!"[12] The whole of the machine of the universe is, by and a doubt, wisely contrast and continuous in perfect order. by the laws of its creation; nor

"Think we, like some weak prince, the Eternal Cause
Prone for his fav'rites to reverse his laws."[13]

Yet man sometimes forgets himself and asks for a variation of the laws, as

"When the loose mountain trembles from on high
Will gravitation cease, if he goes by?"[14]

Our duty — It is then our duty to adapt and plan & scheme to the wise laws of nature as we find them;

"Yet not to earth's contracted span
Thy goodness let me bound,
Or thing the Lord, alone of man,
When thousand worlds are round."[15]

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[11] Quote from Alexander Pope's *An Essay on Man,* Epistle 1, 1733-34.

[12] Quote from Pope's *Essay*, Epistle 4.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Quote from Pope's *Essay*, Epistle 4, The Universal Prayer, Deo Opt. Max.

April 23

I am not close the subject more appropriately than in words of the same part:
"This day, be bread and peace my lot,
All else beneath the sun,
Thou know'st if best bestowed or not,
And let thy will be done"[16]
An in the following [ ] [ ]:
"To thee, whose temple is all space,
Whose alter ear, sea, skies,
One chorus let all being raise!
All Nature's incense rise!"[17]

24

Friday Morn thinly clouded-wind SW, and the day the same.

Steam ship news

The steam ship, Caledonia arrived at Boston on 20th instant, 16 days from Liverpool, bringing accounts of two mor[e] severe battles fought in India between the British and Sikhs, which resulted in the defeat of the latter, with their [ ] artillery, baggage &c. and has terminated the war. The loss of the Sikhs was prodigious, insurance on the part of the British. The first Battle was fought by Sir H. Smith, The second by Sir Hugh Gough: in the former, the Sikhs were driven over a broad river, their [ ] 56 pairs of cannon, baggage, stores of ammunition, and grain, all wrested from them by repeated charges of Gough & infantry. In Sir H Gough's action, they were said to have lost 12,000 and 65 pair of artillery; the British 320, 2063 wounded

Two great battles in India

[16] Quote from Pope's *Essay*, Epistle 4, The Universal Prayer, Deo Opt. Max

[17] Ibid.

April 24

Remarks on the battles

and on troops generally

Numerical force

The numerical strength of the opposing armies is not given. In all the battles fought in India between the British & native forces the number of the latter has been great, often furnished with vast trains of artillery; but generally found inable to cope with regularly disciplined troops of the European school. The Sikhs, it is said, have been considerably instructed on the parade, but they lack that steady discipline and mechanical execution, found in experienced armies of the present day: Their war seems to have been in attempting to fight in large bodies in the open field, when regular troops possess great advantage, from their facilities of movement in combined actions.

Men may be athletic and brave, but without being habituated to combined effort & mechanical movement, they are weak and liable to confusion, and more especially when outing in large bodies. An undisciplined enemy is generally most successful when it acts in ~~moderate sieges~~ light flying detachments, as a partisan-war, especially if the country is broken or covered with woods. In a regular pitched battle, in open ground against trained and experienced troops, numerical superiority is of little importance, and seldom gives victory. In our last war the stand taken by General Winder

April 24

Bladensburg battle

at Bladensburg, was obviously faulty. Had he employed the main part of his force in acting against the right and rear of General Ross's on his advance, the result would probably have been different. In the engagement in the open field, Winder's forces was put to flight by the light Brigade of Ross' army. In a war with Great Britain without a competent regular force & other preparations, we should be liable to similar disasters. The great military error of the people of our country is in the false estimation placed on numbers and native bravery, without discipline and experience. Give our men the same discipline possessed by the English or French and they become equally as firm & able troops. The defeats of the Sikhs ought to teach us useful errors: Their numerical force was great, their artillery ample, & their munitions & other stores abundant; yet they were beaten in every action by much smaller numbers their enemy.

Such this is the perfection to which the art of war is carried by the great civilized nation of Europe, that men thoroughly instructed in the art, are of little worth in a field of battle. They may render some service by their skills in spark shooting from behind fortifyed works, where it is less dangerous to stand there to retreat but in open ground, in front of a disciplined army they are ~~little used~~ are not to be relied on.

The

April 24 The disciplined soldier may possess no more native courage than the peaceable farmer, mechanic or other man, but he has learned that to flinch from his duty and retreat from danger without orders from his officer, is certain death; and the last holds his ground because to flinch, his reputation will be lost among his associates to which his pride will not consent. And here we see the difference between the soldier and citizen.

If then we would become a military nation, we must sink the amiable virtues of the citizen in the case pardoning process of the soldier; and what patriot would prefer this, to our present condition.

If we find among our north western woodmen those who would plunge us into a war for the possessing of a useless strip of wild land let us look at their motives, and we shall readily perceive that the liberty and happiness our country is less sought for, then their self aggrandizement, or elevation to public notice. It is time for the people to discriminate between such men, and those who are honest and striving for the welfare of our country.

25 Saturday Morn fair-wind NE. and fair day; The air of lower temperature than yesterday

April 25

Koch's Hydrarchos

I have just perused Doctor Albert C. Koch's account of the skeleton of the Hydrarchos Harlani on the Fossil Reptile discovered by him in the state of Alabama; containing also geological observation made on different formations of the rocks, during a geological Tour through the eastern, western, and southern parts of the United States, in 1844-1845. It is comprised in a pamphlet of 24 pages and is interesting to the Philosopher. The skeleton measures 114 feet in length and weighs 7500 lbs in a petrified state. Professor Silliman who has examined it, thinks its length would reach at best 130 feet, if the cartilage were restored to the articulations of his vertibrae, and that he is of kin to the sea serpent recently seen on & near our sea coast. Dr. Koch supposes him the same animal noticed by Job (41st Chapter) under the name of Leviathan. The author is a German Geologist & corresponding member of the societies of Hull and of Dresden. The speculations concerning Geological Chronology, and the time the Hydrarchos was immersed in the soil, a rock in which it was found, are merely conjectural, and theoretical, and of little weight—4.464,000 years are put down for the time (page 19 & 20) That monstrous animals existed before man, is highly probable.

April 25 and what length of time has elapsed from the "Beginning" to his creation is not, & probably, never will be, known by us. Even the history we possess of the ancient world, are limited and doubtful; but geology is presenting many interesting facts by it discoveries.

Eclipse of sun This day an Eclipse of the Sun in Taurus: beginning at Boston according to Dickinson's almanac

11-15 M
end 1-53 A } mean time. Magnitude to 39', we noticed it by smoked glass.

Remarks on astronomy The accuracy with which eclipses are calculated, demonstrates the perfection of astronomy. The irregularities of the means rotation would seem to have rendered this accuracy inhospitable. But through the labor of Meyer and more recently those of La Place, this part of astronomy is rendered as accurate as practice requires, and most of the calculations in astronomy are now made with wonderful exactness; and in fact, none of our sciences are more perfect. All the improvement one can now look for, is a more perfect contribution of instruments

Instruments and in the use of them. But it is hardy to be expected that any artists will exceed the celebrated Groughton of England; and if they continue his extraordinary skill,

Difficulty of [ ] [ ] we may [ ] ourselves fortunate. To determine angles down to seconds, requires a perfection in instruments beyond the inferior power of man, though by various & magnifying

glasses

April 25

glasses, it is attempted. But if an instrument be, at first, [ ] perfect, it soon becomes otherwise and requires correction. Another difficulty is to construct

To avoid errors in observation

them without eccentricity, which is as critical as the graduation. But as no instrument is perfect, the best made is the reading off of the angle on different parts of the limb, expecting the observation, and taking a mean of the whole: still some error will remain, but one may be sure that it will be small. Our artists in this country seem not to be fully aware of these difficulties, and we have them confidently assert that they can construct perfect angular instruments.

optical instruments

Optical instruments requires less nicety, since the desiderata in them is their magnifying power; but the micrometers attached to them, requires angular accuracy.

No perfect instruments

Could we mark out a great circle in the heavens, and divide it into degrees, minutes & seconds, by our most perfect instruments, we should perceive inequalities in them; and a perfect equality in these divisions is the [ ] in an astronomical instrument. For operation in Geography, Surveying & Engineering, less perfect instruments ensure the purpose but then we but approximations to exactness.

"Then say not, Man's imperfect, heaven in
Say rather, Man's as perfect as he ought;
His knowledge measure'd to his state and place
His time a moment & a point his space."[18]

Yet he is capable of high progress in the arts & sciences and when we behold a Newton, a LePlace, we ask if they are mortal men.

April 26

Sunday Morn fair wind N. and day clear, the air rather cool; our street maples exhibit a green hue & blossoms.

"Shout we then with Nature's voice,
Welcome Spring! Rejoice! Rejoice!"[19]

Reflections on vegetation

Such bursts of feeling are natural on seeing the spring progress of vegetation, and when we ask restive this vivifying principle during the cold season? We say heat produces the phenomenon, but this is but a secondary cause; for there must be a cause of causes, imbuing design and adaptation to condition. But when we attempt to Scan this giant power, we are lost, and can only say, such a power exists, and extends through all parts of the universe.

And the first cause

With this belief all appears harmonious in the phenomena of nature; but without it, all confusion & blind chance. Some, however, say that if God exists, there must have been a course of his existence, and then they must admit a series of causes, and infinitum: but why not stop at one first cause?

"Know them thyself, presume not God to scan;
The proper study of mankind is man."[20]

In this study of man, it is not to be supposed the past would prohibit the study of Deity, so far as our capacity extends, but to caution us against those that are beyond our powers of mind & comprehension. We cannot scan the Deity, but we can find [ ] evidence of his existence

existence

[19] From James Nack's poem *Spring is Coming*.

[20] From Pope's *Essay*, Epistle 2.

April 26 existence and superintending providence from the general phenomena of nature we may be sure of his benevolence as well as wisdom, and power; Of his other attributes we have little knowledge other than that they cannot be [ ] with those enumerated; and all intelligent minds perceive his existence at a glance. If minds less elevated regain objects of the senses to impress the idea, they generally possess it, though sometimes grossly:

"Lo! the poor Indian whose untutor'd mind,
Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind."[21]

The inquiry of Job (Chap 11, verse 7)

"Canst thou by searching find out God?
canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?"[22] involves two answers.

1st—Canst the find &c. This may be answered affirmatively: the 2d relation to his attributes & perfections is beyond the extent of our faculties, and must be decided in the negative. When then we find men going by and these solutions, we may justly doubt their wisdom; and these are generally men of an enthusiastic temperament, who deal in mystery and imagination, as wild as their enthusiasm.

27 Monday Fair morn, wind N.E.—day clear, and moderate

My son & his wife returned from Chicopee & he from Boston, where he saw my old friend Simeon Borden Esqr. who sends me a pamphlet of 111 large pages containing the results of his trigonometrical survey published by the Legislature by Mr. Palfrey secretary.

Borden's survey

[21] From Pope's *Essay*, Epistle 1.

[22] From King James Bible, Job 11:7

April 27 The formulae and mathematical Explanations were furnished by Mr. Borden and Mr. Charles O. Boutelle, the "accomplished assistant" of Mr. Borden, & now of the United States coast survey. Hence, I think, full confidence may be placed on the accuracy of the results and tables included in Mr. Palfrey's pamphlet. (See my remarks on page 95) Mr. Borden's Survey, from which an accurate map of the State has been projected, on a scale of 2 ½ miles to and (7 feet by 4 ½), will be found extensively useful, on many occasions. The State is now marked out by many portions, the Lat. and Long. of which are currently determined, as well as distances calculated, with their bearings from each other, so that a teacher in any part of the state will know nearly his position on the Earth very readily; and the Land surveyor will easily ascertain the variation of his needle, by observing its elevation from any of the lines given in position. By making use of a given line as a base, he will also determine his distance to other objects not given in the tables, and then triangulation may be carried on to any extent with accurate instruments. Other uses of the survey are pointed out in Mr. Palfrey's pamphlet, page 5th of the Introduction. The great value of the work, will readily be perceived by mathematical philosophers.

Importance of

28 Thursday Morn fair, wind N-E; day continued clear & rather cool; SW wind at night. Several warm days have occurred but in general I have found a moderate fire necessary in my room. The ground is now very dry & the roads dusty.

April 28

Congress preparation for war [ ]

Noble stand of the Senate

From the proceedings of Congress there seems to be little probability of a war with England, and no preparations for that purpose are on this topic: but in the House the war spirit still continues; Yet it appears somewhat cooled, by the correct attitude of the Senate.

More important then is this branch of the Government, to check the reckless proceedings of the more democratic part? By some the Senate has been held as an unnecessary division, but the check they have given the House in their designs in the present dispute with Great Britain, demonstrates the importance of that branch, in the clearest manner. Without this check we should, no doubt by this time, have been engaged in a war, and our country reaping its bitter fruits at the expense of our prosperity & for no other cause than a deep hatred to England. But Mr. Polk and his party, may at length find that we are not a military nation, and that peace and good agreement between us and the nations of Europe, is essential to our prosperity. As respects Mr. Polk alone, I think he would, at once settle the dispute with England, were he so permitted by his party. If in compliance with their wishes, he plunges us into war let him not be surprised if ever his party should desert him when they feel the deprivation & expenses the war will produce. In a country where the ballet boxes are open to all, none need to be told where to resort, to correct abused power. Mr. Polk will keep an eye on those depositories, & his confidants will not forget them.

April 29 Wednesday Fair morn, and SW but the sky soon covered with those clouds which continued through the day. The air cool. A sprinkling of rain before night.

Et. Florida Serpentine Company

A company by the name of the East Florida Serpentine Company, was incorporated at the late session the General Court, the object of which is to work the Black marble, or serpentine, quarry on the east side of Hoosac mountain in Florida, at a place called Kings Meadow, near the south bank of Deerfield river.

King's meadows

The Company, I am informed, is commencing preparation to carry on their work. From specimen I have seen of the rock, I think it must be valuable for ornamental buildings &c. it admits of a fine polish and is of a firm texture, the color dark, often black. Whether it can be worked profitably, I am not certain. A good stream of water will be necessary to work the machinery for the operations. The turnpike road from Charlemont to Adams passes the quarry furnishing a convenient land conveyance. Should the enterprise be successful, King's Meadow may become a place of consequence. It was first occupied by Jesse King Esqr. of this town, whose task was thought singular in selecting a spot so solitary for his residence; but he was a man who saw beauties in wild scenery, and had

Native of Jesse King, Esqr.

April 29

His scientific taste

a taste for studying nature in it's rough state, and possessed considerable acquirements in mathematics which rendered him a good land surveyor, and I believe, something of a practical astronomer. With a knowledge of Geology, as now taught, he would have found among the mountains and abrupt precipices surrounding his fertile meadow, much to gratify his inquiring mind. He was born in our village of Wappin, where the family resided, and removed to Florida in 1795 (according to Field's history of the town, inserted in that of the County of Berkshire, 1829) The town of Florida includes what was called Bernardston grant of 7350 acres.

30

Thursday. Cloudy morn, wind NE. rain last night. P.M. generally fair, and the air cool from the N.E.

New work on Agriculture

Abstract of the Returns of Agricultural Societies of Massachusetts, for the year 1845—1 Vol., 800, 214 pages, has been published by John G. Palfrey, Secretary of the State, agreeably to the requisition of the General Court. This work though limited from want of more full returns from some of the societies, contains much that is useful to all, and in future years, will become more so, if the societies shall communicate all the particulars within their power—I am pleased to see the efforts making to reclaim morasses & swamps, the planting forest trees, and restoring worn out lands to fertility; These

April 30

[ ]
on a
where most
useful

[ ] of
fertility

Limits
operation

Barren
land

and the production of good manure the great objects required for improvement in agriculture; and in no parts of the country are these exertions so strikingly beneficial as in those where the land is naturally barren, or worn out. In new countries, where the soil is rich, manuring is little attended to; for it is not wanted, of course the attention of the farmers is turned to different objects; But they, at length, will find their lands loosing their fertility without the application of maures. Could a combination of simple earth be found, which would insure permanent fertility in soils, the addition of manures would be useless. But this combination without the mixture of vegetable or animal matter, or their elementary principles, which admit of [ ], would not form a fertile soil. [ ], clay and lime will form a <u>cement</u> for stone and brick walls, but without vegetable or animal, the compound is not fertile. The use of lime in agriculture is supposed to be the property it possesses of hastening the dissolution and prettification of all animal and vegetable matters, and if importing to the soil a power of restoring a quantity of moisture for the growth of plants (Parkes' Chemical catechism page 125)

In the eastern parts of Massachusetts there is much barren or worn out lands, and [ ] [ ] partially flowed by water & can be reclaimed only [ ]

April 30

How managed

and raising to a higher level, by the addition of proper earths in manures, It is in these sections of the state this benefits of agricultural societies may be felt more than where the soil is fertile before cultivation, or is kept fertile by alluvial deposits; still all parts of the state will furnish employment for those societies if composed of members capable of investigation of the laws which govern regulation.

Mr. Palfrey's compilation, I believe, will have a useful effect in stimulating farmers to such investigations

May 1

Friday Morn partially cloudy with NW wind, the day soon became fully cloudy & rain fell P.M.

Congress

Passing of the Oregon bill

The Oregon Notice Bill has passed the Senate by ayes 42 to 10 negatives. The latter all full elected Democrats. The Bill was agreed on by a combined committee of both houses, & is so diverted of its war features that the war-hawks gave it their negative. In the House it was passed, 142 to 46. The President is authorized to give the notice "at his discretion" instead of the request of the two branches. The war parts, it appears, are less violent in their howlings, but ready for the fall swoop.

Mr. Webster

Mr. Webster is now on a visit to Boston & Marshfield. During a short stop at Philadelphia, he was visited by a committee of the townsmen of Mr. Ingersoll, and invited to a [ ] dinner, as a token of the view taken by them of the attempt of Mr. I. to blacken Mr. W's character. These townsmen probably [ ] Mr. I's character in full; and the

May 1 respect shown to Mr. Webster indicates to say the [ ] that Mr. Ingersoll's

Mr. Ingersoll townsmen are not displeased at the castigation he has received from the hand of Mr. Webster, nay more that it has been timely and [ ] inflicted.

2 Saturday Cloudy morn—wind NE the day continued partially cloudy with occasional sun shine.

Congress In the proceedings of the House of Representatives at Washington, on the 27th April we have the following: Mr. C.J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, made a personal

Ingersoll vs. Webster explanation in which he reiterated the charges he had made against Mr. Webster, of unlawfully using the secret service funds of misapplying said fund to corrupt the party press; and of having the Department of State a defaulter of said fund.

Mr. Ashman Mr. Ashman, our representative, replied, and reviewed the past history of Mr. Ingersoll, showing that he had been the traducer & villifier of some of the best men in the country, and among them of Mr. Richard Stackton of New Jersey. the scarifying which he got on that occasion, he thought would have deterred him from attempting the same thing again. He then called to the conduct of Mr.

Portrait of Mr. I. Ingersoll while District attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and said that General Jackson had dismissed him from that office for mal-practices, or retention of public funds. That he was a defaulter when he left the office, and that it was two years after a judgment had been obtained against him, before he had paid

the

May 2 the amount. On this, his brother, J.R. Ingersoll, rose and said, he felt it his duty, as he had acted as council for his brother in the suit brought by the U. States, to say, that his whole conduct as district attorney had been highly honorable, and that he had repeatedly endeavored to get a settlement with the government, and at last only succeeded by withholding some public money in his hands to force a suit, to be brought against him.

Mr. Ashman said, he appreciated everything coming from the Gentleman, and had no doubt that the opinion he had expressed of his brother's conduct was one which he really entertained, But he must place the facts before the House, and the members could then judge for themselves, unbiased by personal relationship. As to the charges against Mr. Webster, he pronounced them entirely false and said that Mr. Tyler had born testimony that no money had been [ ] from the secret service fund, without his express authority. Mr. A. said [ ] know of insidious efforts that had been made to prevail on Mr. Tyler to disavow the sanction he had given to those disbursements.

Mr. Ingersoll inquired whether they were made by him? Mr. Ashman replied, "By you" Mr. I. then said it was false—it was a lie. Mr. A. said he was not to be drawn into a personal controversy with the aged member from Pennsylvania. He came from a part of the country where the [ ] was not talented, and his duty

May 2

to himself and his constituents would not permit him to resort to that method of settling differences. Mr. I. said he was not aged, and applied several harsh expressions to Mr. A. who went on a few minutes and concluded his remarks.

Mr. A's study course

It was then moved, that a committee of five be appointed to ascertain in what manner Mr. Ingersoll had become possessed of information which the President had said could not be communicated to the House. An additional committee was also raised, with [ ] for persons & papers to investigate the charges made by Mr. I. against Mr. Webster, with a view to the impeachment of the latter, if the charges should be proved: Passed without a division statement from the Boston Journal April 30.

Committee raised

Remarks

Mr. Ashman's management in the case will meet the approbation of his constituents, and show that while he possesses the spirit of an honorable gentleman, he has means of chastising audacity and falsehood, without resorting to the savage custom of southern chivalry in such cases.

The charges against Mr. Webster by this mortified man, and of a character that [ ] friends and the friends of the country who have long seen his able & faithful services, will not, be believed as true without evidence more credible than the statements of one whose obligations of mind and [ ] from an honorable course have been notorious.

Finding

May 2 Finding himself sinking in the public estimation, Mr. Ingersoll to retard his descent, thinks it necessary to lessen the public esteem of Mr. Webster, under the hope that the negative quantity taken from Mr. Webster may be positive when added to his own.

Mr. I's charges

In this attack on Mr. Webster we perceive a reiteration of those made on President Washington by the Jacobins of his time Viz. of having unlawfully drawn money from the public treasury for his private use, as it was pretended to be procured by contracts from the books of the national treasury; and also with other crimes "in terms as indecent as could be applied to a Nero—to a notorious defaulter—or even a common pick pocket." (See his letter to Mr. Jefferson in 1796)

Similar attack on Washington

Mr. Webster's agency in adjusting amicably, our N.E. boundary is not forgotten by the leaders of democracy; for it removed one chance for a war with England' and they now seize on the Oregon boundary to effect their object. The good sense of the Senate may, [ ], defeat their design.

3 Sunday. Cloudy morn; wind Westerly. P.M. generally clear, wind veered to NE

Some varieties of plum trees begin to show blossoms, while other flowering trees & shrubbing indicate that they are not far behind. This flowering process is

Plum Blossoms

May 3

Flowering progress

Forms & colors

[In]

is a curious provision of nature by which in impregnation takes place essential to the production of fruit. In the Cryptogamous plants this process in not seen, yet it is probable it take place imperceptibly and it is now generally held that there is neither in plants nor animals an equivocal germation, though the ingenious author of Vestiges of Creation seems inclined to that opinion.

In the study of vegetable physiology, the Philosopher will find an intensive field for cultivation, and of an interesting mature. He will notice the delicate form and exquisite coloring of the flowers, exceeding the affects of the most curious human artist; and he will ask why all this beautiful display, unless it be for the gratification of sensitive beings? And if man is the being for which this beauty was designed, the question will arise whether he is the degraded, depraved, & fallen nature, so much inserted on by a sect, calling themselves religious, who would limit the goodness of the Creator to an Elective few, whose conceptions generally are as contracted as their views of divine benevolence displayed in the phenomena of nature. To such the [ ] [ ] of the Poet, has no charms;

"To thee whose temple is our space,
Whose alter, earth, sea, skies,
One chorus let all beings raise!
All natures incense rise!"[23]

[23] Quote from Alexander Pope's *Universal Prayer*, 1738.

May 4 Monday. Fair morn-wind SW and day fine but many clouds.

Mr. Everett's inauguration

Edward Everett, our late Minister to the Court of Great Britain, was inaugurated President of the Harvard University at Cambridge, on the 30th ult. He is now placed in a position readily suited to his taste and high qualifications; science and literature being his fort.

His remarks on education

In his address, he noticed the various branches of study in Colleges and hinted at some new ones proper at this day—such as a departments for the abstract sciences, general literature, theoretical and practical science, and engineering. The application of science to the business of life was coming more into demand every day. A Classical education he regarded as the most fitting and useful preparation for the discharge of civil duties of the Government. In general those succeeded best in addressing juries & Senators who possessed classical

Classical learning

knowledge, and had most diligently studied the ancient Greek masters. For the purpose of mental discipline, he was disposed to give the [ ] to the exact sciences; and he touched upon a living practical religious belief, founded upon conviction and the sound doctrines of reason and a cultivated conscience. He was apprehensive that intellect was now taking a downward direction, in a moral point of view, and sinking into a state of heathenism

Both

May 4

Sinking of morals

Remarks on

Light reading

Both in Europe and in America, in the city and the country, in the exchange and the Senate, and can even in the Academy, [one] worshipped other Gods, than the true one, and more, educated men, were found worshipping with the least created of the spirits that fell from heaven. (I make this abstract from the Boston Past of May 1st & it may be incorrect)

Of the impact of this last paragraph I am not certain. Does it mean that the institution of learning, and educated men in high stations, both in Europe and America, are sinking into a state of heathenism as respects morals? This would be but a poor compliment to pay to the science & literature of the institution of learning. May not the impression have been produced by the rejection of the old fungus of the schools now pruned off by the shears of modern times? True indeed, I have thought that sound knowledge was on the decline among our people at large; but this I have attributed to the reading newspapers, and light works of imagination so much multiplied among us of late years; but I had supposed that men of sound science were making progress in the useful. If it he a first that intellect is taking a downward direction, and educated men are sliding into the descent, it is time to alter our modes of education, and to teach men how to ascend to a higher point in the scale of knowledge.

I will not have assert that an education [ ] on modern science & literature would

May 4

Educated men

Not always learned

place our educated men on higher ground; but I am compelled to say, that many who receive their instruction within the walls of some of our colleges, come out with but a smattering of sound practical science which their classical studies included as foreign to a college course. When we find instances of scientific advance, it is whence the taste for sound knowledge has not been smothered by a stranger taste for classical pursuits and superficial gloss, which cover too many college students.

Mr. Everett, however, as I have noticed, regards a Classical education as the most fitting and proper preparation for the discharge of the civil duties of government, though he admitted there were brilliant examples of success in civil political life on the part of some who had not enjoyed the advantages of such an education; but these were only "exceptions." In general he thought those succeeded best in addressing juries and Senates, who possessed classical knowledge.

But as respects the Civilian, it strikes me as a singular position to say that one well versed in the high literature and science of modern times is less prepared for usefulness, than him who goes to eminent Greece & Rome for his guides;-- those valued stories, as one observes, of Poetry though not of Science.

As regards the abilities of the Law advocate in addressing juries, no doubt

May 4

his classical acquirements render him more descriptive & voluble, since they are ~~[ ] they are~~ auxiliaries to oratory, which charms juries composed of men of unbalanced minds. But it would be a matter of regret to find the skill of those orators so powerful as to obfuscate the minds of our jurors, so far as to induce them to agree on agree on unjust verdicts. When oratory becomes this influential, it is a dangerous pawn before which justice and right are in danger and the high criminal may escape disserved punishment. But when a jury is composed of real informed men, oratory becomes but the trimmings of language and has little effect. Unfortunately our juries are not always so composed, and in such cases, the artful orator may produce a dangerous influence.

Oratory

Its efforts

may be dangerous

Mr. Everett's high qualification

Mr. Everett's high acquirements in classical knowledge may have led him to an under estimation of their value; but while he has been engaged in that study, it is believed he has not neglected other necessary I his present position, to which he has been elevated to the entire satisfaction of the discerning part of our community; and no man, within my knowledge, has equal claim to his position.

5

Tuesday. Morn fair, wind SW and clear day, until towards sunset.

Our Rail road

Our Rail road diggers are now breaking ground on the descent at Col.

May 5

Wilson's shop, in the valley north of Martin's Hill. The company have purchased his stand, as I am informed, for 1200 dollars, he to retain the buildings by deducting 75 dollars from the sum, and removing them. The road will be considerably elevated above our street, and when completed, will turn the principal part of the travel from our village. We think the location a singular one, as it crosses many deep ravines, which might have been avoided. A depot, I am informed, is to be erected on Martin's hill. Should we derive much advantage from this road? The answer is rather doubtful. The Company look for profit, but the cost of construction, repairs &c. may be too great for that. The impression is that the value of the towns through which the road passes, will be enhanced, but this depends on the price of the products in the markets, which may be glutted by too great a supply. For example: The price of corn will not be enhanced at Boston by the rail roads, but rather reduced by a surplus, and the same with other articles; the demand and of course no advantage gained by the producer. Freight into the interior will also be reduced, but the demand not increased.

Progress of

Bad location

Remarks on

Principles

Population, limits of

The population of our principal marts is increasing, but there is a point beyond which they cannot go; and that of the interior depends, not on rail roads, but on its agricultural products.

In the present rage for railroads, there seems to be more zeal than cool calculation. Time will cool the rage.

May 6 — Wednesday Morn cloudy, and N.E.; P.M. thin clouds with sunshine, and wind S.W.

Texas & Mexico — The accounts from the frontlines of Texas and Mexico are of a war character, the enemies having taken position on the opposite banks of the Rio-Grand. Our army about 4,000 and the Mexican somewhat greater. With a reliable government the latter would not hesitate to commence a defensive war in which case we might find something more formidable than our [ ] of an army, to oppose them. But since they have submitted to our usurpation of Texas, they may deem it most prudent to submit to further impositions; but they may prove a more powerful nation than we suppose them.

Hostile aspect of

Remarks — If however, Mexico peaceably submits to fine encroachments, she may give up her independence, or at least, relinquish to us her northern territory down to the Gulf of California, on which our democrats has an eye, without regard to what they call the old musty laws of nations. The plea is diffusion of democratic liberty; and if a neighboring nation are unwilling to receive it, they must be forced to it, vi et armis, a sentiment worthy of Napolean, their great Reformer of governments and of the Rights of Man. Whose tendencies were roused only when he beheld some 10,000 or 20,000 of his fellow beings prostate on his battle field, to satisfy his ambition. Is this the liberty

May 6 our vociferous friends of the "rights of man" would impose upon their neighbors? Then La Vinde, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and others that were blest with the fraternal hug of the French Brigands in their late revolution, can give us impressive lessons on its ameliorating effects.

7 Thursday Fair morn, wind NW. some frost seen upon the grass; the day partially cloudy. PM NE wind.

apple blossoms Apple & cherry blossom appear, I believe rather earlier than common.

state of N. York New York State Constitution

The people of that State have chosen their Delegates to revise their Constitution, and it is said, the democrats have a majority. This, of course, the condition of that State, under its present political sentiments. If there are any material defects in the constitution they are unknown to me. But I consider it no proof that such exist, because the present majority there hold it to be so. Such is the [ ] spirit of the time, that no constitution, however wisely contrived, can long remain without reform. Among the people there will always be found those who are unwilling to remain under salutary retraint or to see talents and worth promoted to the educated stations for which they are incompetent. What will be the result of the revision is uncertain; but one thing is sure: If the wild democracy of the state is to dictate the plan, we may [ ] to

May 7

say the revision will be dissent from carnal principles, to those that will ensure the demagogues greater facilities to places within the gift of the uninformed part of community: and who will not regret to see the great State of New York, thus sunk below the [ ] she ought to sustain.

Revisions of its Constitution

There may be defects in the Constitution of the State, which admit of a remedy; but the people, it is not readily believed that the defects are great; and minor one had better be submitted to, than to attempt material alterations when the minds of the people are so distracted by the effects of designing men, and thus to risk the introduction of those more pernicious. The harpings of pretended [ ] at the present time, render this caution important.

[ ]

Washington's caution

Speaking of innovations upon form of Government, General Washington says, "One method of assault may be to effect, in the forms of the Constitution, alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown."

Farewell Address

People of N. York State

That there is yet sufficient discernment among the well disposed & informed people of the state of N. York to [ ] a sound system of Government, is hoped; but its present political attitude promises no favorable issue in its democratic convention to whom the revision is in trusted; and it will be fortunate if the

May 7

the fundamental principles which have been the basis of the state governments shall not in some instances be set aside for those that are utopian, and its liberty and prosperity of course rendered less secure.

Honesty of

The mass of the people, it is believed, are honest and aim at the welfare of the state, but like others they are extremely liable to the deceptive acts of demagogues, who spare no efforts to deceive, and create prejudice against good men, who stand in the way of this promotion to office. This propensity is the bane of our government and process from the admission to the ballot boxes of all sorts of characters, particularly in the State of New York, where foreigners wholly unacquainted with our republican liberty, rights and social institutions, may blindly deposit their votes but generally as dictated by a leader as destitute of principles as themselves.

[ ]

Tendency of the system

I have heretofore remarked that in a political point of view we were [ ] on a downward course, and that all honorable men of eminent talents & acquirements will be rejected at the ballot boxes, and almost daily we see this truth verified. A Clay will be rejected for some absurd candidate, who is supposed to be the "friend of the people", and whose talents do not elevate him above mediocrity. This being once adopted as a rule men of the lowest talents may look for offices, and all will be equal.

This the democratic diathesis of the day, and the part of honor is becoming private section.

May 7 According to a statement in the Boston Post, quoted from the Albany Argus, the Delegates chosen are:

members chosen	Democrats	76	=128
	Whigs	45	
	Anti Rent	7	

Democratic Majority, 24. If then the convention is to be governed by a party, we may look for an [ ] revision, But it is presumed that some men of talents will be found on the Convention who will hold in check wild projects which may be brought forward to upset the basis of the present constitution, & thereby preserve the valuable parts. I have dealt at some length on this subject because I feel in interest in the welfare of that state, and wish it to continue respectable under the hope that better men will at length be placed in office, and the state resume it former standing, when the compatriots of Washington and other men of the revolution were in the chair of state.

8 Friday Morn cloudy, wind S.W. P.M. Fair with broken clouds and pleasant air inviting to an excursion in a carriage, which I should improve, Could I lift the arm is in day of Fingal—But Crother's arm has failed, his gray locks wave around a staff on which he leans, his stops are unequal, his eyes are dim, too

Reflections pleasant [ ] & proud and he sits & hums the song of other times! But Crother has had his day! A new

~~race has come!~~

May 8 Continued

race has come, and they too may be old and feeble, and sigh for days that have past as Man's life is indeed short and at all times uncertain, and he often meets sad disappointment, But if he keeps his passions under due subjection, reasons & respects calmly, and endeavors to out right, he may find much for enjoyment, even on old age, provided he is favored with health. ~~[——]~~ Avoiding the great error of ~~[———]~~ input to Providence things which are caused by his own indiscretion ~~own indiscretion~~ & want of his foresight when within his command. Yet how after we see more murmuring at the effects of the laws of providence, as if these laws were to be varied or suspended, to favor his designs & schemes?[24] "Oh [ ]! pride! impiety!"

9 Congress

Saturday. Cloudy morn, wind NW & N day generally cloudy & rain at suns set. During the present week we have heard little or nothing of War Preparation in Congress, not even the proposed Rifle Corps is established to protect the Oregon immigrants and their march through the woods to the promised land; and Mr. Polk's line of stockade forts yet remains to be traced. The truth is, the War Hawks have in some degree ceased their hooting since the Senate pact or check

[24] These past few lines seem to be select quotes from James Macpherson's *Fingal*, 1761, as well as paraphrasing from the same poem.

May 9 — check upon their wild crusade, their tomahawks and scalping knives must, of course, be laid up in their wigwams, for another opportunity. But Delenda est Carthago is still the motto of a portion of our backwoodsmen, who receive their lectures on liberty from stump orators & who

The War hoot subsiding

"As Socrates of old at first did
To aid philosophy get hoisted
And found this thought flow strangely clear
Swung in a basket in mid air."[25]

The House — In the House the dear friends of C.J. Ingersoll, are straining every nerve to find some slip of Mr. Webster in the management of the secret service fund under the administration of Mr. Tyler; and the late castigation so appositely bestowed on one of the gentlemen, by Mr. Ashman, still galls & frets not only the castigated individual, but his democratic brethren to whose plans and insidious measures Mr. Webster is a powerful obstruction. From the broken condition of the War party and favorable symptom is presented: they will not easily unite in other measures immediately destructive to the liberties of the Country, and, our downward course: we would hope be exposed for a time.

The War Party

Place a Washington at our head & patriots of the same stamp in both branches of Congress, and our Country

[25] From J. Trumbull's *McFingal: a modern epic poem*, 1792.

May 9 would at once, burst forth in its glory and political happiness and more pervade the Union. But alas! Demagogues would at length again infest our land, order be inverted, the people be pitted against each other at the ballot boxes, and good men again be rejected from the national councils and all this for the redress of supposed abuses, perhaps no where existing except in the heads of these who imagine them. This is the natural course in a government where universal suffrage is the basis and the people can be misled by artful [ ] men. To continue a balance wheel in our machine of government, that should remedy the evil, would be a difficult task. Perhaps a general diffusion of useful knowledge ~~indicating [ ] moral principles~~ offers the most effectual remedy, were it practicable. But in this general knowledge something mans their rudimental instruction must be included. "It must contain a strict code of morals, a constant religious belief founded on conviction and the sound doctrine of reason and cultivated conscience," embracing a sense of a superintending Deity, who will not be held conscious wrong with impunity.

As respects different modes of religious belief, & worship as alleged by various sects. They may not be of the importance they have been supposed, provided they embrace the fundamental point

May 9	morality, benevolence, good citizenship and due reverence of Deity: though that system which is the most rational will no doubt produce the best efforts in society, particularly whose knowledge is elevated and duly estimated. But since a great portion of mankind take up their religious notions from accident & circumstance, it should not be forgotten that their modes of wisdom should in some we assume, be adopted to their capacities. And fortunate is the country in which the moral and other fundamental principles are not eradicated by the fanatical firms of those who take for granted what they do not examine, nor can comprehend.
10	Sunday: Morn cloudy—wind SW. last night a considerable shower, attended with lightning & thunder, the day continued cloudy and rain in afternoon, with lightning and thunder frequent: wind at N, then back to SW.
Winds & Showers	In the warm season sudden changes of winds to opposite point indicate showers; and clouds wafted from various directions to a central point differently charged with electricity, might produce lightning & thunder and if the rain be violent, it is generally attended with a descent of a portion of the upper air. Hence the decrease of temperature after a shower.

May 11 Monday Morn fair, wind N and brisk, and throughout the day the air cool and a fire agreeable.

Fruit trees

Apple trees in pretty full blossoms as well as plums & cherrys, but this fruit is often cut off by late frosts. Less attention is paid to the growth of apples than formerly and comparatively, little cider is made, and to me it has become rare.

Usefulness of apples

Both apples and cider I think, are essential to the health of families when used in due quantity, and indeed the former can hardly be misused. The efforts against the use of ardent spirits, have been extended to cider, and even mild malt drinks, as I think, improperly. Stinted to water man will require something more stimulating especially as he advances in age. The danger of using these stimulants is, from an excess while young, and here caution is necessary. The thirst for ardent spirits is strong in those who live on poor and scanty food, and hence we find it in the Indian, almost irresistible. Our Fathers made use of stimulants, yet were a more hardy race than ourselves, and were they less virtuous? Here is a doubt. They possessed more of the masculine virtues and are ours if more refined, more noble?

Ardent spirits

I would not lay a straw in the way of checking the use of ardent spirits, but when carried to excess, temperance will hardly bear that name.

12 Tuesday: Fair morn, wind NW. day fair with scrolling clouds, & cool air.

Shad I am informed, were taken last week in the Connecticut, between this town

May 12 and Montague. The vast quantities of these fish that formerly ascended the river and its confluent streams was really astonishing, and now hardly to be credited.

Shad fishing The people of the neighboring country flashed to the fishing plains and some of the natural falls where the scoops are successfully worked. presented encampments where merchandise of all sorts were offered for sale, and many people collected for sport. This was the holy day season and all were on the move. If however the fish furnished a large supply of food for the season,

Remarks on perhaps the fishing lessons the quantity of shad which would otherwise been produced on the farms. Nor were these fishing stations commendable resorts for the young and inexperienced, for their dissipation strode almost without a check; but such were the generally good habits of the people that high crimes were seldom committed. At that time, basic knives, linch-laws, and striped pigs were unknown to the people.

Salmon During this fishing, Salmon of the first quality were caught in considerable numbers, than which nature no where furnished none delicious food from the animal creation; but they have now deserted the River, owing, it is supposed, to the objection of their passage by dams, though no complete one found within 100 miles of its mouth. Has instinct or the reasoning power induced this desertion? Ah!

"All nature is but art unknown to thee."[26]

Man then must stop at facts with out scanning causes beyond his capacities.

[26] From Pope's *Essay*, Epistle 1.

May 13

Our Army

Hostilities commenced

Wednesday Morn fair, wind NW and fair day, wind waned to SW.
Report says hostilities have commenced between the Mexicans and Americans on the Rio Grand, near Matamoros, and that a detachment of about 60 men of our Army had been cut off by the Mexicans who had passed the river to the left bank. Detachments of southern militia are said to be ordered to reinforce our army under Gen. Taylor; the Mexicans commanded by Gen. Arista. Now for a scrape! I am in want of good maps of the country, without which it will be difficult to trace the operations. Have we in Texas the requisite military magazines, farming a safe base for an invasion of Mexico?
In the interior or high heart of Mexico, the air is said to be mild for its latitude, but in the eastern, and in Texas, hot & unhealthy. In protracted campaigns with Northern troops, I apprehend much loss will be sustained by sickness from which the Mexicans will be exempt from their acclimation. In a sickened army, the loss of lives is often greater than in battles, but there is a subject little thought of, until by sad experience, it is felt, and more especially by raw troops not habituated to a camp life.
An attempt to prosecute the war, by detachments of militia, would be too childish even for President Polk's war-hawks, who by the by will keep at a respectful distance from the contested field, leaving others to gather the laurels, while they continue to lecture on reformed liberty & the rights of man.

May 14 Thursday Fair morn, wind SW, day fair with wind occasionally E.

Gen. Taylor's position

Accounts from New Orleans, of May 2d say Gen. Taylor is shut up in his fortified camp opposite to Matamoros, by a superior force of Mexicans, who have cut his line of operation, and reduced him to about 15 days provisions, a considerable force of militia, it is supposed will be necessary to relieve him from his critical position. With a force nearly double that of Gen. Taylor's, Gen. Burgoyne, on the Hudson in 1777 was compelled to surrender his army to us. He had penetrated to Stillwater ~~Saratoga~~ on the river without a supply of provisions, and his line of operation with Lake Champlain, was ~~closed~~ [ ] supplies cut off. Our commander may at length learn that fighting is not the most difficult part of military operations. In his advance from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grand, Gen. Taylor's force was inadequate to its object & probably too much reliance was placed upon a supposed superiority of fighting troops—Often a fatal supposition. The Mexicans under skillful officers & with experience may become formidable troops. It was our determined to invade the populous part of the country we must increase our army with regular forces and carry on our operations systematically. The false notions we have imbibed from our militia system, must be given up before we become a military nation. Our farmers, mechanics, & others though they be sharp shooters are not soldiers, a truth known to all experienced officers.

May 15 — Friday Morn cloudy, wind SW. day partially fair, but cloudy at sun set.

Mexican War — In the war which has now commenced with Mexico, the main object of our government will be to obtain the acquisition of that part of the country lying northward of the Gulf of California and most of Texas, and as the population is sparse and a regular government hardly known among the inhabitants, a conquest may not be difficult. Having the example of Texas before them the people will perceive an easy course to annexation with us. But should Great Britain or France or both united, be involved in the war, which is not the most improbable result, we might find ourselves in no enviable a position.

Objects of

Hints on — Suppose Mexico should cede to either of those nations her NW territory would the democratic doctrine of Presidents Monroe and Polk be regarded? We think not. A fair, bona fide conveyance of a territory of an independent nation to another is not thus to be defeated by a third which has no title. This new international law carried out, would be a just cause of war on the part of those who had obtained a title.

What will be the course of Mexico in her present position, is uncertain; but under the treatment she has received from the United States, will she not be more disposed to cede her NW territory to some foreign power, them to submit to a conquest by us? At any rate it is highly probably that Mexico has a plan

May 15	If however we invade the old part of Mexico with a view to conquest, we may find it, at least, formidable in a war of defense. Six or seven millions of people are not to be prostrated at a puff by a nation at our distance "feeling power & forgetting right."[27] Let it not be forgotten that in case of war, justice & honor are essential to success.
President's message	Washington Monday last. The President sent to Congress a message invoking them to Reorganize a War, and to authorize to call 50,000 volunteers into service for 12 months, for operations against Mexico: that is volunteer militia corps under officers of their own choosing.
Calling for volunteers	What systematic Regular officer will consent willingly to command them, who has any regard to his reputation? The writings of Washington will furnish an answer to the question. A militia Army! What a solecism! If war is to be
Remarks	prosecuted, let soldiers be provided, and farmers &c. left to their proper employment at home.
Washington opinion of soldiers	"I solemnly declare I never was witness to a single instance, that can countenance an opinion of militia or raw troops being fit for the real business of fighting.
	Circular of Washington to the Executives of the several states, Oct. 10, 1780
	In the forepart of our revolutionary war, one of the greatest difficulties with which Gen. Washington had to contend was the false notion entertained of the fitness of militia for war. The priority provided

[27] From Jesse Appleton's *A Sermon Delivered at Brunswick, April 13, 1815 …*

May 15 not only among the people, but in Congress, and our cause was consequently on the verge of a failure. The wonderful discernment & perseverance of the Commander and Chief at length removed the fatal course and an independence was established by the employment of regular, permanent troops.

At this time the old error seems to be gaining ground, which may be attributed to our 30 years of peace and the parade & foppery of our militia corps., which has eradicated all correct ideas of systematic war in the people at large, and introduced a sort of Ball-Room tactics performed to the tunes of brass-bands and the fluttering of ribbons, all as foreign to military discipline as the arts of the milliner's shop. And were it not for our little army of permanent troops, and the West Point Academy, all sound knowledge of the art of war would have been extinct by this time. Mr. Polk and his Cabinet, possess no experimental knowledge of the art of war, and it would be ascribing to them extraordinary genius to suppose that even in theory, they had made progress without making the studies in some degree professionals.

A war, however, may be attended with one advantage: it may teach us our weakness as a military nation and render us less beautiful of our strength.

May 16

Remarks on the Mexican War

Saturday Cloudy morn, wind SW. day continued cloudy & some rain fell
We are now at war with Mexico, a Republic claiming to be free like ourselves. The cause of the war is unknown to us and the nations of Europe, ~~and~~ as well as to all civilized countries ~~nations~~ of the wor[l]d, and will be approved or condemned as it shall appear to them under any [ ]. If it shall appear ~~to them~~ unjust on our part, we shall be the real sufferers though we should conquer additional parts of the Mexican territory, and annex them to our union; and it may be that our course towards their nation will excite the commiseration of other nations. The question is whether our government can make it clear that it has held a course towards Mexico fair & honorably, and such as it would require from her in similar circumstances or the golden rule to do as we would be done by. If we enter the contest without this purity in our course, we ought to be defeated in all our movements against her.
The Annexation of Texas to our union is a novel case, and to say the least, presents doubts of its justice, and moreover is contrary to the former practice of nations. If similar instances can be adduced, no proof of right & justice is to be inferred from them but only the power of the strong over the weak. The present instance savors too much of ambition & loose regard of right on our part, and its morality is questionable.

May 17 Sunday. Cloudy morn with SW wind. P.M. partially fair, with air agreeable temperature

Inviting as part of nature

To the inquiring mind nature now presents an inviting study, especially in the vegetable kingdom, and a writer of that character says, "The proper parent of all superstition and false religion is ignorance of nature and the true causes of events[28]; and it is generally conceded that the study of natural philosophy is of the highest importance, both in a temporal and a spiritual sense. An unlearned man will view the works of nature with delight & wonder, but the man of science, who can investigate and explain, the causes of things will contemplate them, with reverence, and discover proof of a superior intelligence in all the operations of the universe."

One who then expresses his views cannot fail of laying a firm foundation of natural religion; and since this emanates from the Great Creator; it cannot be counter to religion revealed from the same source. Hence then we have a standard by which we may judge of the genuineness of schemes daring to be supernaturally revealed to man. And we may safely say that all the schemes that will not bear this test, are the works of [ ] man. The only question is whether we correctly understand the religion of nature, and how we may err; but the fundamental points are too plain to be mistaken by some minds.

[28] From Joseph Priestley's *Discourses Relating to the Evidence of Revealed Religion*, Vol. 2, 1796. The remainder of the quote is unidentified. It does not appear to be from Priestley's work.

May 17 The [ ] errors into which man so often run, arise generally from false modes of education, want of an examinations upon trust. But if it be time that under these influences all are not capable of discerning the truth; yet it behooves the philosopher to investigate in [ ] by authority, and to give a rational [ ] of his belief.

18 Monday Morn fair with broken clouds and S.W. winds—P.M. a shower with some thunder.

The war

What will be the bearing of the Mexican War upon the Oregon dispute with Great Britain? If our whole army & 50,000 volunteers, with $10 million are necessary in the outset what will be the call if the war continues for several years!

Its effects

We seem to think the conquest of Mexico, an easy undertaking: Perhaps so!—but it may prove otherwise; and should we place Great Britain at war with us at the same time, we might find our hands full. At least 100,000 men would be necessary to protect our front & right and left flanks, and troops different from volunteer militia must be employed; and how long after the expenses of the war should be felt, would our ballot-boxes remain unaffected. Ay! but our war hawks seem not to be aware of this effect on a free people, who have all power in their hands. Will they forget their former communal prosperity and fast on the bubble called patriotism? If so, they must be entirely changed from their former habits & dispositions.

May 18
Military zeal of young men soon cooled

No! our young men who have heard their fathers tell of war may at first find a thirst for its glories, but a few months service in the field will cool their zeal; and when once returned to their paternal homes be well contented to remain there. This is the effect of actual service on a great portion of militia volunteers.

Washington's sentiments

Washington will understand this trait in the characters of Citizen soldiers. In a letter written to Congress from Harlem Heights in 1776, he says, "When Men are irritated, and the Passions inflamed, they fly hastily and cheerfully to Arms; but after the first emotions are over, to expect, among such People, as compose the bulk of an Army, that they are influenced by any other principles than those of Interest, is to look for what never did, and I fear never will happen": In the same letter the General pointed out the total inefficiency of militia for war in terms that cannot fail to convince all who are acquainted with the first principles of military discipline. (See his official Letters published by Mr. Sparks)

Yet with little other force, our War Hawks would plunge us into a war with Great Britain! Consummate stupidity! With such men for our guides, who would not shudder for our liberty?

The zeal for a war with Great Britain will find a damper in that with Mexico, and well will it be if the contest teaches us that justice & honor are essential to our welfare & standing among the nations of the world.

May 19 Tuesday Fair morn, wind SW. and day fair & air cool.
The papers now begin to teem with accounts of war preparations against Mexico, and are object of those of the democratic cast, is to present the conduct of the President and his cabinet as wise and able, with a view to render the war popular, and present alarm at the expenses which must attend it. Every mean is used(?) to place Mexico in the wrong:--She has refused to receive our minister or meat with him,--She has dent troops to the Rio del Nort to watch the movements of our army, already advanced more than 100 miles into the territory she claims as her own; and she has crossed the river, advanced into our limits, attack our light parties and killed not captured our men on our own ground; and worse than all, has surrounded Gen. Taylor & cut off his supplies. Volunteer corps of militia, are now offering their services to the President; the land of Montezuma is to be invaded the City of Mexico to be sacked, and the whole country to be subjected to our republican humanity; and all this by a sort of [_____].
This eruption of democratic lava will cease when the explosive force of the volcano is expended, and it may open a safety valve which shall prevent similar explosions. The Volunteers will measure their distance as they advance, eagerly count the ticking days off their enlistment, and "home sweet home" will be remembered.

Maj.

May 19 Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott, it is stated, has been ordered to take the command of the army assembling in Texas. He is about 60 years of age and is supposed to be qualified for a commander; but we believe will not be rightly qualified at the vexation charge of a militia army, wholly unprepared for systematic operations & implicit obedience of orders. Among his volunteers he will probably find knowing soldiers who will demand the reasons and notions of his movements. Among the New Orleans volunteers, it is stated, are 50 Printers who have turned out full of patriotism. How long will these young gentlemen submit to the pay and employments of the soldier" We think this General would rather see them at their types than in his ranks. These patriotic soldiers will hardly volunteer their services in a second campaign, for their taste for field tactics will be satiated, in one, and they will hardly aspire to la Grande Strategie.

20 Wednesday. Morn fair, wind SW, air cold; day alternately fair and cloudy & wind sometimes W.

In the Boston Post of the 16th instant we find a field list of the officers of Gen. Taylor's army taken from a New Orleans paper. The impropriety of publishing such a list at this time, will at one be obvious to all acquainted with the

May 20 importance of secrecy to our army on lines of operation. If gratifying to the connexions of the officers, it will not be less so now to Gen. Arista, the Mexican commander, when the list shall come to his hands. Will they volunteer printers from New Orleans learn something in relation to secrecy in camps, and communicate it to their brethren at home? In critical cases, in the vicinity of an enemy, sometimes all communication from the camp are prohibited excepting those mails by the Commander in chief. By Lord Wellington

Secrecy in War

Secrecy in his army, was considered so important, that even his staff were always ignorant of his intentions, and he and humorously said, "If I thought the hair of my head knew my plans, I would wear a wig."

Lord Wellington

So important is secrecy in military operations, that the officers of well regulated troops imbibe it, and I their social intercourse few or not remarks are made upon their commanders on their plans & movements, and a taciturnity is presumed, which the militia man construes into a lack of sociability: but a contrary practice is the source of bickering ill nature and results fatal to order & discipline.

Regular officers

21 Thursday, Morn fair, wind N. and cool air: day fair

We have some very unmethodical accounts in Hartford extra, of a battle between our army and the Mexicans, on the Rio Grand; but I wait for more authentic accounts, before I [ ] them.

Vague accounts

The

May 21 The substance of the account is: that Gen. Taylor on the night of the 3d of May, leaving 7 or 800 men at his fortified camp, proceeded to Point Isabelle to open his communication, and that on the morning of the fourth, the Mexicans attached the works & were repulsed with the loss of 700 men, and only one on the American side; and that Matamoros was burnt by the fire of the American artillery. The details are entirely destitute of military precision. The Mexicans are stated at 10 or more thousands & constantly reinforcing all is vague. Gen. Taylor is supposed to have been attacked on his return to camp, on the 6th and may have been defeated.

Gen. Taylor

Volunteers Where are the Texan militia—the volunteers? But the New Orleans Printers are on the march

"Equipped alike for feast or fray
With warlike sword and singsong lay."[29]

22 Friday Fair morn, wind NE: day fair, PM wind SW.

We are looking eagerly for the mail papers to obtain details of the military operations on the boundary of Texas & Mexico, where Brethren of the Republican family are endeavoring to do each other the most harm, a condition in which civilized nations ought not to be found. Wrong has been committed by and of the contending nation, and on which does it rest? A calm exemplar of the story of the annexation of Texas to us, will ~~show~~ place

[29] From Trumbull's *M'Fingal*, Canto 4.

May 22	place the question in no favorable light on the part of our Government. The secession of Texas from Mexico gave no right to us to receive them into our
Our Claim to Texas	union without the consent of Mexico. I say that because Mexico had not been able to put down the insurrection (for so it was in fact) Texas had become a legal & independent nation, would be a position obviously absurd.
Unjust	Suppose Louisiana, or any other portion of our boundary, had with drawn from our union, and voluntarily consented to become a part of Mexico, and received by her as part of her territory, would this have been a [ ] of our right to the seceding state? And suppose we had not been able to coerce her or had preformed a different course to effect that object. Would then have altered the right of the case? Clearly not.
	If this mode of annexation be adopted as a ~~correct~~ practical Law of Nations they may bid farewell to all permanent boundaries of territories, laws and right of property.
23	Saturday Morn fair, but soon cloudy with SW winds: day cloudy with some rain and fog, dense on the mountains.
	A scribbler in a democratic paper of Boston proposes a Mass meeting at Faneuil
Volunteer Spirit	Hall to rouse the Spirit of ’76 & engage a Regiment of volunteers for the Mexican War. He seems to think a campaign six or seven hundred miles South of New Orleans would be a pleasant excursion and that the city of Boston ought not [rest of text smeared]

May 23 of the pleasure & honor of this volunteer service which is to extend our boundary and enforce democratic liberty & laws, on a neighboring people who choose to attempt govern themselves by systems and laws of their own.

to [ ] In remarking upon our militia system, I have said that no civilized people in the world, are more profoundly ignorant of war & its operations than a portion of the people of the United States. This is attributable to the show foppery of our militia

Remarks on corps as their training days in presence of the strong multitude who suppose them war exhibitions, and the soldiers (so called) finding the sport very pleasant, imbibe what they call a war spirit. Hence a trip to Mexico is at this time considered as a protracted scene of diversion which they are desirous of imbruing. One month's field service will effectually cure the mania; and to retain them in the service would require a force of disciplined troops double their numbers. If among our backwoodsmen we found those who are better fitted to undergo the fatigues of the camp, they are in spirit little better for protracted service; and in point of subordination & obedience to orders; equally unfit for soldiers. The latter, however it must be confessed, are the last militia, but no officer who regards his reputation would wish for a command in either.

24 Sunday Cloudy morn: wind N. PM Broken clouds, & partially fair.

My friend LB Lincoln arrived last night & gave me a call. In him I find a [ ]

May 24 who commands my confidence & esteem as I believe he does that of all who have intercourse with him.

Mr. L.B. Lincoln During an acquaintance of several years I have found in him all those amiable qualities which render intercourse cleaver; and were all mankind proposed of his virtues and intelligence nothing would occur to interrupt the harmony of society. More men of similar characters are wanted in our country. Long may he live to soften the ferocity of those who lack his exemplary qualities. He now has the charge of a flourishing academy at Hingham in this State.

25 Monday Cloudy morn, wind N and the day generally cloudy and wind PM SW wind

Congress will out By the recent vote out of Congress, President Polk is authorized to accept of 50,000 volunteers, in addition to our standing troops of about 7,000 and is entrusted with the strings of the public purse to the amount of 10 millions of dollars, to prosecute the war against our sister republic, Mexico. This is no small power to intrust to one scarcely known to the people until a short time prior to his election to the Presidency.

Mr. Polk In the selection of Mr. Polk to his office I have not supposed he possessed any remarkable qualifications for the position, but that the democratic leaders knew him to be a zealous man of their party, and would to ~~their~~ [ ] to their plans & schemes; and it must be confessed ~~that~~ he has thus far given no cause for doubting the similarity of what they call his pledged course. The annexation of

May 25 Texas was a matter of course, but whether they anticipated a war with Mexico is doubtful. Relying on her supposed weakness and our boasted superiority of military prowess, they believed she would submit to these encroachments and be thankful if allowed to remain an independent nation, without such limits as our government should prescribe. But should Mexico resist our strides, a Cartro was to plant our standard over the land of Montezuma, which was considered no difficult task.

But this was not the great object in the election of Mr. Polk: a war with Great Britain was the grand scheme, in which her Provinces in N. America were to be annexed to our Union and our democratic principles diffused over, at least all parts of North America.

This plan is no doubt well understood in Great Britain, and probably in France, and whether they will remain indifferent to our conquest of Mexico, time will determine. The war on our part is democratic the volunteers will consist of that description of our people, and though not the troops to be relied on in systematic operations, they may during the first [_____] inflict much misery on the Mexicans, and at last, their northwestern territory may be wrested from them, and annexed to our union under our new irrational law, ala mode ala Texas.

But with the power now granted to Mr. Polk, are our own liberties secure? Suppose he should prove ambitious

and

May 25

and be found to partake of a portion of the spirit of the grand reformer Bonaparte, would our ~~own~~ liberties be secure? With the powers reserved by our State Governments, I have supposed that they ~~our liberties~~ were not in danger ~~safe~~ from encroachments of the Federal Government, ~~and they [ ]~~ nor would they be if the people could be kept awake to their true interests, but in our present conditions the powers of the states are neutralized by political divisions, and in terms of war, when the President is intrusted with the military force and the purse strings of the Treasury, the rights of the states may be forgotten and an ambitious leader find no great obstruction in fixing himself in a prominent position, guarded by his <u>favorite</u> <u>volunteers</u>

Our danger

In times of war

There is however one security against ~~against~~ the usurpations of such power. When the free people <u>feel</u> the deprivations and distresses of war, they will pause, and have recourse to the <u>ballet boxes</u>, if not too late, which may be the case. That Mr. Polk is the man for such a course is doubtful; but if not others are not wanting; when a majority of the people of a country become politically corrupt, and are ready to follow the dictates of unprincipled leaders their liberties cannot long remain. The present condition of our country demands the watchful care of its wisest patriots.

but will they be regarded while the present men prevail? No! meditation will be treasonable

May 25

Commanders of volunteers

and providence, cowardice. And wo to the General who commands the first volunteer army! If beaten in battle, no matter under what circumstances, he will be charged with treachery and may loose his head; and if cautious in his movements he will be deemed a poltroon and be removed from command for a desperado who dashes forward without regard to circumstances. Such was the fate of several French commanders under the Directory, in the first part of their revolution.

Of the state of discipline in the Mexican Army, we are not informed, but if the General officers are experienced and acquainted with systematic operations they may present formidable obstacles to the advance of our undisciplined volunteers. Eight millions of people on their own said if determined on resistance, are not to be ~~easily~~ conquered. By adopting a defensive system, avoiding general battles, holding ~~difficult~~ fortified houses and mountains, and acting on the flanks and rear of this invading forces, ~~they may~~ it might present to our dandy volunteers something very unlike ~~to~~ the force they had so fondly anticipated while dancing their evolution to ~~their~~ bands of musick on their smooth parades at home; and possibly the anticipated farce may turn out tragedy.

At the commencement of our revolution our populations was about 3 millions, yet we brought into world an army respected by the

May 25 the disciplined troops of Great Britain, and which at length, by discipline under the cautious Washington, was unable to contend with them in the open field, and the capture of Burgoyne's army demonstrated that a people of an extended country are not to be conquered by a blow.

The war with Mexico, m[a]y co[n]vert her people to foes: whose prowess we may find cause to regret.

At any rate, we may learn that a war unjustly waged is not be sustained, at this state of the world, without the loss of national character.

26 Tuesday Morn fair, wind NW, and fair day. P M wind SW. Air pleasantly warm. A hand bill, I am informed, is in circulation, announcing a [ ] battle between our forces & the Mexicans in which the latter were beaten with severe loss. It was my intention to give my daily details of the movements and operations of the armies; but I find these so loose & even contradictory from that nothing like accuracy can be obtained. In general they are filled with puff and dash of ~~[ ]~~ [ ] wild men, that little dependence can be placed upon them. Coal detail is ill suited to the times. We are flying on rail road [ ] ~~at the rate of~~ 30 to 40 miles per hour; go a head! is the cry—[ ] [ ] ~~to the~~ to the Mexican Capital and reach the wretched people the [ ], of [ ] the liberty!

Transcription of Epaphras Hoyt journal, June 25 1846-Sept. 14, 1846
[A continuation from the previous transcription, with a one month gap]

June 25 nor their Bunker Hill spirit, quashed without a trial of the heroism of nature in a war of conquest on the plains of Mexico.

False Confidence The confidence reposed in an army of volunteer corps is wholly misplaced, and arises from ignorance of war as an art and science that requires ~~require~~ experience in the tented field prior to the service in front of an army. If bravery alone were sufficient, it would be otherwise; for militia men possess as much

in militia of that quality, naturally, as regular troops, and are as capable of individual exploit as those troops; but unlike regulars, they know not how to act in large bodies, under regulated obedience and [ ] effort; and being unacquainted with camp duties, they know not how to take care of themselves, very soon becoming sickly and disorderly. In a war, the strength of an army composed of militia excepting when outing in the woods in small parties, or posted in fortified works, where it is less dangerous to stand than to run.

26 Friday Fair morn, wind N. but the Day generally cloudy, with some rain; air still cool.

The army From the latest accounts from our army on the Rio Grand, it appears that the troops are becoming sickly, specially the volunteer corps. This was anticipated, and it would not be extraordinary if Gen. Taylor should be compelled to suspend any important operations until September or October. In the mean

June 26

the mean time the discipline of the camp and the malaria of the country will cool the ardor of the volunteers for the service, and home have more charms than a march to the city of Mexico.

Recruiting officer from the army

Recruiting officers are sent from the camps to various parts of the United States to enlist men to fill up the regular Regiment to the war establishment. Will our young democrats improve this opportunity to show their zeal in the cause? No! they will prefer to serve in volunteer corps, in which their officers will be more under their control, and the discipline less rigid. In our war of the revolution I will recollect the division of our militia men to enlisting under Continental officers, who were thought to be too rigid in their discipline; and under this impression it was almost impossible to obtain recruits to fill up the regiments in service. To obviate this difficulty the citizens were formed into military classes, whose duty was to engage one or more men, according to the number of precincts regained from the towns; and large bounties were sometimes paid to those who consented to become soldiers, whether of the Class or engaged ~~at~~ from a distance.

Old mode of recruiting

At the present time, the democratic spirit pervading all classes and the wages of laborers bring much higher than those of the soldier

The

June 26

French conscription

the same difficulty might occur in a severe war; in which case, a scheme similar to the French conscription in their late revolution, probably would be adopted, a resort, however, which aught never to be chosen but in a war of defense. The attempt to carry on a war against a powerful force of disciplined troops, by volunteer corps who elect their officers, is too preposterous to be entertained for a moment, by men of sound sense and judgment.

27

Saturday Morn cloudy, wind NE and cool air; the day generally fair, P.M. wind SW.

Letter from Fort Polk

A letter from Fort Polk (Point Isabel) June 7 1846 says: "troops are arriving here daily; the men at the point are much debilitated by a severe flux, so as to render them almost totally unfit for service, and few will be able to march from here to Barita. They need better water, a change of food, or more exercise.

Sickness of troops

Gen. Taylor will not move into the interior until he has collected more stores and established depots along the routes of march—to do which in the hurried and pressed transactions of business, none will regain weeks, in not months." This must be encouraging to our volunteers, so eagerly panting for military glory. Report says 500 Mexican Rancheroo had escaped Rio Grand, & were ranging this country (Improbable)! east of fort Beacon.

June 28	Sunday Morn cloudy, wind SW; Sun out at noon, but most of the day cloudy and cool air. Since the Sun arrived at its quarterly declination the weather has
Weather	been cool.—a condition not readily explained upon the supposition that the sun alone is the cause of the temperature in our Latitude.
29	Monday Morn cloudy, wind W, and the air rather warmer, the day fair throughout.
Gen. Taylor's position	General Taylor's positions. Placed as he is at the head of an undisciplined army of volunteers on the Rio Grand, at this season of the year, I can conceive of nothing more trying to the patience of a commander. A great portion of his men will probably be prostrated with sickness, and another portion wearied and disgusted with the service, will be sighing for their homes, and every species of disorder, confusion & waste will parade his camp and even his small regular force may not be exempt from the evil examples.
Congress members	The false notions entertained by many at this time surprises me, even, some of our members of Congress partake of the grossest notion. Recently I have noticed the absurd plan broached that soldiers should elect their General officers. What stupidity! These men are about as fit for members of Congress, at this time as a new seaman is to navigate a ship on the wide ocean. Gen. Taylor will find cause to regret such want of disownment in those who would conduct his operations.

June 30 Tuesday Fair morn, wind SW the day fair and warm

Haying

Our farmers are now employed in haying, the crop middling: the cloudy weather for several days extended the process.

Our rail road

Bridge

Millers river

The rail road so injudiciously located over hill and deep ravines is making slow progress; but time and labor is required to complete it. The bridge at Cheapside will be expensive, and of a frightful height when completed. The Rail road down Millers river to Grants and thence to Northfield & Brattleboro is held in reserve and is doubtful whether it will be called into action. Rail roads have become numerous on paper, but a few only will be found on the surface of the ground. The truth is they are too expensive for the people in the interior of the country; and they are not wanted, excepting on the routes of great trading places. Let us then grade over roads as far as within our power, and if made hard and smooth, they would answer our reasonable wants.

July 1 Wednesday Cloudy morn ~~wind~~ gentle rain, and wind NW The day cloudy with [ ] occasional rain

The season

This and the two following months must be a severe trial to the raw troops of Gen. Taylor's army on the frontiers of Mexico, and a large portion of those may be swept off by fatal sickness, common to hot climates. This seems not once to have entered the minds of our volunteers, even those from the Northern states.

new

July 1

Campaigns in hot climates

Mexican war

Is it first

New troops are very liable to sickness in mild climates; but in those that are hot death often makes horrid strides, more fatal than in battles. An invasion of south Mexico at this season, would be the most imprudent movement that could be devised; and in short, next to insanity. Nor would expeditions into the NW part by raw troops be attended with much less fatality. With the aid of malaria the Mexicans may yet make a formidable defense and thousands of our young men may [ ] [ ] the ground with their bones.

Were the war strictly defensive and unavoidable, and our country in danger, all those distresses must be borne with as much patience as the lot of humanity will permit. But in the present war, does the necessity clearly appear? The history of the thee annexation of Texas to our union shows at first that our course is doubtful in point of justice. At any rate the annexation was not necessary for the welfare and happiness of the United States. The war than cannot be considered truly defensive and in this light, I believe it is viewed by the nations of Europe. Be it then our endeavor to restore confidence, by a return to national justice.

2

Thursday Morn partially fair, with NW wind. The day at length become fair & fine for haymaking, though the atmosphere was sometimes hazy & wind variable

July 2 When the volunteers of New Orleans first turned out for the service in Mexico, we were told that 50 young gentlemen of the type offered their patriotic services. We then doubted who these warm friends of liberty were to wield the rifle and lament the hardships of the tented field under a burning sun; and we now learn that Gen. Taylor finds other employments for them. A printing press is established at Matamoros from which a paper is to issue in English and Spanish, to circulate among the benighted inhabitants of the country, an end near! the Rio Grand, to show the blessings of democratic liberty. The scheme is to get up another Texas section, to be annexed to our union, under our new international law; and this, by this scheme, Mexico is to be sliced off, at least as far south as the latitude of the mouth of the Rio Grand. The remainder of Mexico may perhaps, be allowed to continue a government, provided it remains obedient & tributary to us. Our volunteer printers are admirably adapted to this service, which requires no rifle shooting, nor bayonet charges on Mexican batteries; and no doubt Gen. Taylor will be willing to dispense with their other services.

3 Friday Fair morn and N the day fair but hazy. PM wind SW.

Snow tale of The papers state that on the 22d of June a snow squall happened for some minutes at the City of N. York, and that on the 23d the snow whitened the ground on the Alleghenies to the NW of the borough of Huntingdon. At Deerfield the weather, at the same time, was cold enough for a fire.

July 3

Is it a fact our Summer season is becoming colder than formerly? The change in the frequency, aspect and violence of our thunder storms, indicate this opinion. Young men, I find, have no adequate conception of an old thunder storm, and they hardly credit my accounts of them.

Old thunderstorms

In an old poetical composition, by Roger Wolcott of Connecticut, printed at New-London 1725, I find the following description of one of these storms, which I quote verbatim.

Description by an old Poet

"So have I sometimes in the summer seen,
The sun ascending and the skie serene,
Nor wind nor cloud in all the Hemisphere,
All things in such a perfect calmness were,
At length a little cloud doth up arise,
To which the nitrous sulphiry Vapour flys,
Soon dark mantle over Heaven spread,
With which the Lamp of day was darkened,
And now the Clouds in tempest loud contend,
And rain and dreadful Lightning downward send
with such loud and mighty thunder broke
As made Earth tremble & the Mountains smoke,
And the Convulsive world seem drawing on,
apace to her own Dissolution
The awfulness of which amazing Sight,
Greatly did Earths Inhabitants affright."

In this description much of reality is preserved, particularly the same sky, the first appearance of the cloud, the dark month, the tempest, and the mighty thunder which made earth tremble and the mighty mountains smoke. The thunder was often like the incessant discharge of heavy artillery and the

July 3	rain fell in such quantity as to flood our street, disrupture and destroy the roads, bridges &c. compound with which the showers, of late years are but gentle watering, and moderate gales. This variation of the showers is owing
Theoretical suggestion	probably to the clearing and cultivation of the country by which evaporation is affected as well as atmospheric electricity. May not a multiplicity of railroads in some measure effect the equilibrium of that prevailing climate! I think it possible. If at any time a conservation of the fluid should happen at one extremity of such an iron strapped way, would it not instantly be conveyed to the other? In case of a continued circuit this must be the operation, as is evident from the electro magnetic telegraph. Our knowledge of the laws of nature is limited to narrow [ ] but an extensive field for discovery ~~is before~~ in natural philosophy is before us, but in examining the field let us bear in mind that the powers of man are too limited to explain all the [ ] of nature and that many will elude our most diligent researchers.
4	Saturday Morn fair, wind N. afternoon fair & cloudy, and wind SW air moderate.
Celebrations fourth July	Anniversary of our Independence The day is celebrated in various parts of the Country by assemblages of people, processions, orations, firing of cannon, &c. How far the celebration promotes national liberty is rather doubtful; in general it is for party purposes than for the general good, and we seem to have lost in a degree the pure sentiment of our political fathers

July 4

On Mount Holyoke

The members of Amherst College [ ] hold a celebration on a Peak of Holyoke mountain called Hilliards Knob, one of the primitive stations in Mr. Borden's Geodesic Survey of our state. The view is said to be more extreme than that at the peak at [H]. The knob is on the south line of Amherst, and the students of the College have recently constructed a road to it up the north slope of the mountain. Holyoke is a remarkable Dyke of Greenstone, or Basalt, supposed, by Geologists to have up heaved by central fire.

Indian names wanted

Desirous of changing the name (Hilliards Knob) Mr. William Howland, one of the members of Amherst College, wrote to me for some appropriate Indian name for the knob, but none being within my knowledge. I suggested several English names for consideration (in my answer to his letter) and proposed the naming of all the prominent peaks of the mountain.

In some parts of the mountain is seen a curious column structure which strikes the observer with astonishment. On the formation of that column see Bakwells Geology, Chap. 6, page 126. Also Hitchcock's Report of the Geology of Massachusetts.

Note The Center of the Hilliard station is marked by a copper bolt inserted into a cylindrical hole drilled in the rock. Having a fine cross upon the top; the height above sea level 1119, 74 feet: Lat. = 42°- 18- 20, 38 Long 72°- 30- 59, 83 as inserted in Mr. Borden's tables.

Amherst College Lat. 42.22.15, 61 Long. 72.31.28,49

The whole of the primitive stations I believe were marked by copper bolts.

July 5 Sunday Cloudy morn, wind SW, the day party fair, showery & warm with some thunder.

The weather Until this time the summer heat has not been oppressive to me, but often rather incompatibly cool; it now begins its usual debilitating effect, and we seek out the fanning breeze under the cool shade and wonder how it is possible the people of tropical regions can exist, and thank our stars that our dwelling is cast in more favorable places. But our infatuated volunteers to the Rio Grand and Mexico! What can have induced them to offer their services in that fatal climate where malaria is rife, and unrelenting yellow fever prostrates the most athletic. Is it for the defense of our rights and liberties? Singular indeed if an invasion of a weak neighboring nation were designed for this purpose. In the course of this and the two following months the heedless young men now so eager for the service, may learn that they are not soldiers, and that harm is their place of enjoyment. But alas! poor fellows, they may too late learn wisdom. That heedless young men deranged with the Show and foppery of militia parades, should enroll themselves for service under officers of their own choice, is not a strange step:

July 5	but that man of more advanced age whose judgment is in some measure matured, and who have looked at the history of companys in hot climates should volunteer their services especially when the justice of the war, to say the least, is doubtful, is an anomaly to be explained only by supposing them totally ignorant of war and its distinctive effects.
6	Monday Morn fair, wind SW, day fair & hot
Designs of the war	The designs of the present war are clearly becoming developed Viz: the [ ] of at least, North California and annexing it to the United States, and whether the other part of Mexico will be permitted to remain a separate nation is to be seen. By settling the dispute with Great Britain on the 49th degree of latitude, Mr. Polk has endangered his popularity with his western friends; but he seems to be determined to retrieve his [ ] by the appointments of infantry officers from that regime, to the exclusion of the northern & southern states. Well! this providence fits well to the new art of war which defies experience or theory, or any redress hitherto supposed necessary for commanders.
7	Tuesday Morn fair and NW wind, and the day contained same, with a refreshing breeze.
8	Wednesday Fair morn, wind SW. and day fair and hot. Accounts from Matamoros say "Several deaths from general debility have occurred among the

July 8

Volunteer Aspects

volunteers; one was of Dr. Norris, a gentleman who formerly edited the Woodmills Republican. The volunteers are much dissatisfied; they want something to do. The most perfect apathy prevails among them now, and every day the inroads of this content are more apparent. The Sun is usually warm, and from 10 to 4 o'clock, it is so intense that but for the prairie breeze it would be impossible to stir about one's tents and generally made of common Lowell cotton and afford little protection either from rain or sun. All such things combined with no occupation for the mind leaves nothing for excitement; and all that can be said is that we are here"

Remarks

This is but the beginning of volunteer restlessness & sickness, and a few months under the hot sun will cure them of their zeal for propagating democratic liberty; and Gen. Taylor will soon find them as unfit for service as did Gen. Washington in our revolutionary war. Pitiful is the condition of the general placed at their hand. But these are the troops that democracy supposes are to march rapidly on the City of Mexico and dictate terms in the "halls of Montezuma." What profound ignorance of military operations!

The war with Mexico may, & it is hoped will be of short duration, but probably it may continue as sufficient time to cure our inconsiderate young men of the <u>voluntary militia</u>; and I will venture the assertion that they will not be disposed to make a second campaign

Mata

July 8

Gen. Taylor's camp

Matamoros is laid down on a late map of Texas, by A. Mitchell, at about 25..30 of latitude, therefore the suns [ ] at its greatest declination is only 2..03 (south) Under a sun so overly vertical it would be next to a miracle if undisciplined and unseasoned troops from the northern or middle states were to escape fatal sickness, at this season. And what is more horrible than a sickly camp under a burning sun. Our regular troops habituated to a camp life will probably be less affects but even they will feel the effects of the climate. These considerations seem to have escaped our war hawks who are [ ] ~~[ ]~~ at home under their comfortable shades, and stimulating our young men to turn out and show their patriotism in the glorious cause of their country. The conquest of Mexico!

9

Our force on the Rio Grand

Probable state of

Thursday Fair morn wind W. sky hazy through the day.

The force now on the lower Rio Grand under Gen. Taylor, is estimated at from 9 to 10 thousand, but composed principally of undisciplined volunteers, and not exceeding 2000 soldiers, fit for action. A detail of the daily operation of the camp would be amusing. By this time it is probably confusion begins to appear in its militia aspects and if the regular forces are able to preserve order they will perform a difficult service. When these wild volunteers left their homes for a frolick, they supposed that at this time they would be dancing onwards to the City of Mexico, and they did not harbor a thought of delay for the establishment of magazines of provisions & other stores. These if wanted

July 9

were to flow in like the manner of the tradition in the wilderness. General Taylor may direct their water up the river, but he must obtain their permission for this diversion from the original distribution, and ~~he must~~ be very cautious of diverting movements without consulting them.

Nor must the General be secret in his plan of operation, for this would be anti republican. In one of Gen. Harrison's campaigns on the Maumee in the war of 1812, the volunteers from Ohio, disapproving of his management, held a camp meeting, ~~and~~ passed some resolves against him, and sent them to a printing press, for publication. One complaint was that the General was too secret in his plans. In the first campaign of the same war, under General Hull, the volunteers from the same state, on their march to Detroit, mutinied in the Camp at Urbana and refused to march until forced by the regulars troops; and the same volunteers rode the officers of one of their companies on a rail. Volunteers of this kind are not rare among militia volunteers, nor is it uncommon for them to indicate a [ ] hatred of the commander who enforces the necessary camp discipline and economy. Their whines are often of the most singular character. Where Gen. St. Clair was compelled to evacuate Ticonderoga in the Campaign of 1777 in the revolutionary war, the story was propagated on he denied that he sold the port to Gen. Burgoyne, and received the pay for his perfidy in silver bullets shot into his camp. What officer who holds his reputation dear will consent to be placed at the head of militia volunteers?

July 10

Friday Fair morn, wind SW and day fair & hot.

Mount Holyoke celebration

The celebration of the 4th of July was held at Hilliard's Knob on Mount Holyoke as proposed (page 222) and the name of the Knob changed to Norwottuck, by the Senior Class of Amherst College which is supposed to be the Indian name of Hadley. Of this I think there is some doubt; but if an old name is desirable this may answer the wish. I had suggested to them several modern names among which was that of Borden's Peak in commemoration of Simeon Borden, the Conductor of the geologic survey of our state. The science, skill, and perseverance he evinced in the operation richly entitled him to commemoration in future times. The work was novel with our mathematicians and very few could have been found among us who could have performed the task with equal accuracy.

The Peak is said to be about 100 higher than that so well known at [____]. For its geographical position &c. see page 222.

Mr. Borden's survey

Much has been said of the survey of the grand trigonometrical survey of England, by Gen. Ray, Col. Mudge & others; but in a careful examination of Mr. Borden's survey of Massachusetts it appears that the latter is not less accurate than the former, and in some particulars is more so, particularly in the admeasurement of the base line, which must be considered an improvement of Roys & Mudge's method. The measuring rods were metallic ~~bases~~ on the compensating principle, constructed by Mr. Borden, and approached as more perfection as human [——] effort is capable of. The angles also, being read off by Borden's repeating method are not less instilled to confidence.

In

July 10

Accuracy of

In considering surveys of this kind it is supposed important to measure a base of verification, on a test of the work, but this was omitted by Mr. Borden as he found other proof at hand. Several of his calculated lines were verified by the United States Coast survey. The line six or seven miles long between Pocasset hill in Taunton, and Quaker Hill in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, one of the most distant lines from the measured base, differed but 0,22 of a foot, as determined by the two surveys respectively. A surprising coincidence, entitled to something more than chance.

In short the whole process was a massive piece of work, of which none but the mathematician versed in spherical geometry can form an adequate conception. Of course the extent of Mr. Borden's services will never be duly estimated by the people at large. And while I [ ] my admiration of his ingenious operations, I feel that I should be wanting in due praise, were I to omit the name of his accomplished assistant, Charles O. Boutelle, now employed on the Coast Survey of the United States, who handles as I may say plays with intricate geodesic problems, with a sort of intuitive facility rarely exceeded. With Mr. Borden's other assistants I am unacquainted, but am informed they were respectable. The aid afforded by the astronomical observation of R.S. Paine was important, as they verified the operations of Mr. Borden and in general a close coincidence was found in the two processes. The Map which has been projected from the survey is valuable & honorable to the state.

July 11

Saturday Morn fair & very hot, wind SW
Thermometer yesterday I am informed was 97. At the highest, and high temperature continued through the succeeding night. The day much [ ]

Intense heat

When such intensity of heat prevails I shudder for the fate of our heedless volunteers on the Rio Grand. With what impatience they now begin count the tedious days of this enlistment, and look towards home! Poor fellows! little did they conceive of a camp life under a burning sun; and have paltry appears the [ ] to which they eagerly listened, from Demagogues, who urged them to the sickly field, to chastise the Mexican for their opposition to our encroachments upon their rights! All this many new [ ] to naught, and they wonder at the delusion which has misled them from their friends & homes, to seek the bubble of military glory, which was to be found in a pleasant frollick in Mexico.

Our Volunteers

Probable State of

President Polk may soon learn that his 50,000 volunteers are but farmers and mechanics, whose proper employments are at home and that soldiers are not made without extensive discipline & subordination determined in the field, under high spirited officers who have been appointed for the service.

Lessons for Mr. Polk

Am army of militia volunteers is a force in which no systematic officers would consent to play, If the war is to continue, let the ranks of the regular troops be filled up and others Corps reserved by enlistment sufficient for service during the war. But the President should know that the election of officers by the men will [ ] the discipline of armies.

July 11 Late in the afternoon had a small shower with some thunder; the day hot throughout.

12 Sunday Fair morn, wind SW, Sky became covered before noon, and some rain fell attended with light thunder. The general spread of clouds in our showers, keeps up an equilibrium of electricity, and of course there is little flashing of lightning from cloud to cloud, as when in insulated masses; at the same time, there may be a difference between the electricity of the clouds and earth, and strikes of lightning may occur between them, within ascent or descent, cascading the position on negative state of the clouds.

Showers
Remarks on

P.M. Weather hot, sunshine, scattering clouds, and a fanning breeze, NW. At this temperature how [ ] is a Bath of a proper temperature! But the people have no conveniences for this high enjoyment and healthy practice.

13 Monday. Fair morn wind SW, followed by a fair day; heat less intense than yesterday.

Since the battles of the 8th & 9th of May and [ ] of the Rio [——] Grand, our Army has made but little progress. Gen. Taylor finds it oportant to establish magazines and forts on the River previous to an advance into the Mexican territory, and often the blustery

July 13 and parade of his volunteers, it is probable he finds a want of soldiers in his army. To suppose him willing to advance with his volunteer [ ] would be to try his skill and judgment as a commander.

The sending out of recruiting officers to fill up his regular regiments, evinces that he is sensible of the inefficiency of volunteers in conveying a campaign. He may perhaps risk all [ ] up the river to divert their attention from their farms and to render them submissive to camp duty, which is impossible in a camp of repose, where the daily duty would devolve on the army physicians. Gen Taylor it is believed will have little inclination to try their prowess in battle with a [ ] force, should one be opposed to him. He may however be driven to this, from want of other troops, but his confidence of success must rest on his regulars, instead of wild enthusiasm of volunteers which often misgives one under favorable circumstances and when steady discipline is sure of victory. With such troops no commander will evaluate or [ ] with any degree of certainty, and the best arrangements generally fail of convincing his intention.

In ~~my~~ the remarks, I have made up an volunteer militia corps, I am aware that my opinion will meet no favorable response from the major part of our political men who have made up their nations. A war without an examination of its fundamental documents.

July 13

these fundamental elements I can [ ] to be the following… War is a [ ] art depending on science, study and experience in the duties of the camp in all of its branches, whether strategical, tactical, economical or in habits of implicit obedience to orders. Men may possess natural bravery, be hand and full of order, and yet lack the essentials of the soldier. Discipline ~~depends on~~ requires docility, patience and cheerfulness under the most trying occasions & subordination and the suppression of private opinions. No easy lessons for those who have been habituated to unbounded freedom at home. In this discipline the mind as well as the body, must be hardened, and worked up into a sort of machine very different from those usually found in domestic life. A young man at home, may think he [ ] the lure of a military life, from beholding the military fopping of militia parades; but all this vanishes on entering the hostile camp and feeling the hard life incident to his duty, and he soon turns his thought ~~mind~~ back to his home, ~~and~~ longs for his former liberty & associates and finds no humor in the life of the soldier. Among volunteers, now & then are one may be found of a different character, but they are few indeed, and the greatest portion, whom released from the irksome service are totally averse to a second campaign.

These defects of volunteers, it not be denied, are common to a great portion and must forever render them unfit for practical service, where regular troops insure success by systematic movements united effort & regulated obedience.

July 13	But the two months 'delay' of Gen. Taylor's forces on the ~~right~~ bank of the Rio Grand, is a puzzle to the warm ~~some of the~~ advocates of the volunteer
Senator Hannigan	system. In the Senate Mr. Hannigan, from Indiana, has recently moved resolution for calling on the President for copies of the actions, given to Gen. Taylor (since the Battles) to advance into Mexico, or otherwise controlling the movement of the army, which, he says, has occasioned much distribution in the
Demand copies of new President's orders	public prints. While the enemy is lying in large force at Matamoras at heavy expense; and he wanted to know the cause of the delay. The good sense of the Senate rejected his resolutions as highly improper. This is a true specimen of the democratic spirit of our back woodsmen who suppose the City of Mexico is to be sacked with as much ease as Indian lodge on their frontier.
	Mr. Polk may soon learn the character ~~of~~ of his hitherto supposed friends, who now seem willing to "bury him beyond the reach of the resurrection." Mr. Polk's agency in settling the boundary of Oregon on the 49th degree of latitude, and thereby avoiding a war with Great Britain is not to be forgotten by our western war hawks.
Remarks	Mr. Hannigan has been highly applauded by democracy, and his Biography recently presented to the public, with a portrait, in the Democratic Review, as one of the proposed politicians of Indiana. His fame, however, it believed, is best known at Indianapolis, where its fertile soil is supposed to be as productive of genius as of its crops of Indian corn &c. But Mr. Hannigan's attainments in the art

of

July 13

Hannigan's
[ ]

of war seem not to have kept pace with his profound knowledge of western jurisprudence and stump oratory. With him and his brethren of the democratic school no military instruction or experience is necessary to prepare soldiers for battle, other than skill in the hunting rifle & tomahawk. Volunteers having assembled on the Rio Grand, , Mr. Hannigan calls on the President to show his reasons of the delay of Gen. Taylor's ~~army~~ upon the banks of the river, instead of marching in the light hunter's step, into the interior of Mexico, forgetting that soldiers require sustenance as well as arms. Inexperienced as is Mr. Polk and his cabinet the operation of war, they evince a knowledge of the business, far superior to Mr. Hannigan & his wild brethren of the west.

The "delay" of the army to establish ports and magazines ~~might be established~~ and until the hot season is over, war [ ] by all who have knowledge of military operations. But democracy has no foresight: it dashes on heedlessly, and the present commander who regards rules & system and the established maxims of former generals, is unfit for its service. The systems of [ ], Marlborough and Frederick, are obsolete, and those of Napoleon and Wellington must give way before those of Jackson at the hand of untaught woodsmen. Under the progress of improvement Mr. Polk need not be surprised were the Orderly Book of the war office to be demanded for the inspection & revision of Congress at short periods

July 14 Tuesday Morn partially cloudy wind NE but fair before noon, followed by a clear day, & pleasant air, and SW wind at night.
Accounts say, Mexican privateers are filling out in some of the neutral ports in South America: this is not improbable, and commerce may suffer loss thereby; and as the war continues we may find difficulty with other nations than Mexico. Preparations are now making for an invasion into the interior of the enemy's country, such as providing a waggon train, horses, boats &c. This of course will occupy some time and Mr. Hannigan may not be willing to submit to the delay as the western volunteers are ready for progress, without provisions, or a wagon train. Such slow movements are not admissible in the new art of war, which require no preparations.

15 Wednesday Morn fair, wind N. and cool air and day fair & wind become NW. We hear of the death of many laboring people, from the hot weather, which presented a few days past—some from drinking cold water, mostly in our large cities. They are said to die from congestion of the Brain a turn not any will understand. It would be better to say Died from the effects of heat. without assigning the modus operandi which in many cases is beyond our ken.

16 Thursday Fair morn, wind NW, and cool air; and a fine day followed with mild air throughout. These sudden changes of temperature are puzzling to one: the position of the sun does not explain them.

July 17 Friday Cloudy morn, wind N, The day continued cloudy & cool, & some rain. Our papers notice the casting of a piece of old [ ] at South Boston, under the superintendence of Mr. Alger & Col. Bansford, of the following dimensions & weight: height 10 feet; diameter of the base ring, 39 inches; length of the bore 9 feet 1 inch; diameter of the bore 12 inches weight of the piece 2500 lbs; weight of the shot 2-3 lbs. Range of the shot 3 ½ miles. Cost 1700 dollars of the utility of such guns for sea-coast or siege batteries, I have the strongest doubts and consider them as one of the utopian schemes of the day, resulting from little experience of war upon a large scale. Neither England nor France, have recourse to such ordnance; and if they were useful their experiences would have taught them so. In the early age of artillery large guns were constructed, but soon found useless and laid aside.

Great Guns

of no use

18 Saturday Cloudy morn, wind N.E. and the day cloudy & so cold that I kindled a fire in my room.

During the past week, we have of nothing important from Congress, nor of movements of our army on the Rio Grand. Gen Taylor no doubt aware of the impatience of delay on account of the hot weather, and [ ] of preparation for an advance remain inactive: this creates complaints from democracys, who have supposed Mexico was to be covered by a coup de main. before this time

July 18	Another force composed principally of volunteers is stated is now on the march from Missouri to Santa Fe, under Col. Hurney now created a Brigadier
Expedition to Santa Fe	General. Another force is said to be ordered around Cape Horn to Upper California to take possession of that territory; and that the President asks of Congress a sum of 12 millions of dollars for prosecuting the war with Mexico. This plus 10 million already granted = 22 millions. Texas then is like to cost us a pretty solid sum, but we can to be indemnified by the annexation of at least, North California. So says Democracy.
19	Sunday Cloudy morn, wind N.E. and the day cloudy. Some rain in the morning.
20	Monday Morn cloudy, wind N. PM fair & S Wind, air warm
21	Tuesday Morn cloudy, wind NW, Soon became fair and pretty warm, PM wind SW.
Gen. Taylor's volunteers	Letters from the Rio Grande represent General Taylor's volunteers uneasy, refractory, insubordinate, and every way as unfit for service as I had anticipated; and our President and his cabinet will soon learn that numbers and hated zeal are but feeble means for the conquest of a distant country. Were the people of Mexico firmly united under a permanent government, I think I may safely say, they would not be conquered by us without a strong regular army, led on by an able commander. Our numbers and militia parades have created a false notion of our military strength. A county so extended as is ours with a population of 20 millions is weak at every point, when assailed by a powerful enemy

July 21	commanding a superior [ ] force, which may choose its point of attack. With 8 or 10 thousand floating forces, they may keep us in a constant state of alarm and our militia on the march to the assailed parts which must have an injurious effect on the industry of the country. Had we plunged into a war with Great Britain for the disputed territory of Oregon this would have been our condition. Yet we have among us inconsiderate men, who regret that the dispute with England has terminated without a war. And who are these men? The same who would upset, were it within their power, our systems of state and federal government, for their utopian schemes under the practice of reform and redress of abuses, of which none complain, but the disorderly part of community. That such men are found in an enlightened community would seem impossible; but when revolutionary principles are set ~~loose~~ to work no calculation can determine the length to which they may extend. In the French Revolution they took a bloody sweep under Robespierre, which may serve as a sample never to be forgotten. But we may have our Robespierre, and a Democratic citizen has boldly said "He was the man for America!" [ ] man of goodness business the name of Arthur Braconson, and let it be written in the [ ] of Draca!
22	Wednesday Cloudy morn with rain and wind, S.W., the day continued cloudy.
Newspaper	This day, subscribed for the Saturday Rambler G.H. Simonds Editor (Boston) Paid 1/7 year= 75 cents and look a report signed W.H. Buck agent. H Japer N 11.

July 22

Its promised character

In his prospectus the Editor promises a department of chaste and elegant literature, excluding alike the tame productions of sentimental imbecility, and the flood of flippant immoral trash, already too well known in this community. The Editor must not forget that elegant literature is not exactly calculated for the taste of many of his subscribers, and then if he attempts high refinement in his productions, he may find a want of patronage. In general our papers are deficient in essays suited to the man of science who have little esteem for fictions, other than so far, as may [ ] skill in writing a good style, which chiefly constitutes the value of novels.

The paper is weekly, at $1.50 for year and is to be neutrals in its politics; lest will it find neutral readers sufficient for it support?

Thursday Morn fair, wind SW; fair day with scattering clouds and warm.

23

Democratic views

The Democrats who had supposed that Mexico would have been subdued by this time are puzzled to account for the "delay" of our army at and about Matamoros. Prepared as we are with so adequate a force of militia corps, ready to volunteer their services, on the shortest notice, they supposed nothing was wanting but the President's orders to march, and seize

the

July 23

the country. Subsistence & munitions [ ] were of little importance; nor was a military base on the Rio Grande necessary. One might advance rapidly to any distance, conquering all before them. Any delay for provisions or other necessaries, or until the hot season was over, was to adopt the old obsolete art of war. Nor can any discipline suppose necessary further than what had been taught, at home on smo[o]th parades under Bands of musick, where elegant repasts were provided, and elected officers, decorated with feathers & epaulettes might make speeches & deliver sentiments commendatory of the spirit of seventy six.

Supposed process of militia

By this time, it is probable Gen. Taylor asks for no increase of militia volunteers, to consume his provisions, and derange the discipline of his camp. But when Mr. Polk's new Guards shall join him, he may feel a new stimulus for enterprise, since they will bring with them vast strategic knowledge ~~[——]~~ acquired in the schools of rifle tactics so methodically practiced in our western States.

But if Democracy is uneasy at the "delay" of Gen. Taylor, it is for Mr. Polk to oppose their impertinence in the best manner he can, and, perhaps, no movement for their purpose could be more effectual than a rapid dash towards the city of Mexico, in defiance of malaria or starvation.

But whatever be the operation of the army if they prove unsuccessful, the commanding General is sure to meet the framers of democracy nor would Mr. Polk escape their censure.

July 24

Friday Fair morn wind SW, the [day] continued fair, but clouds often covered the sky.

Magnetic telegraph

Magnetic telegraph The papers notice the failure in the operation of this machine from the breaking of the wires that between N. York and Boston, says the Boston Post, of the 22 instant, was broken in several places. This I had predicted would be the case in long lines, and probably will ultimately bring the scheme into disrepute. The projectors have with great confidence proposed a line from Boston to New Orleans. Now I think I rush nothing in saying that not one week in a year would elapse which the line would be in order for communicating intelligence. The plan appears to me impossible, and even on lines of 100 or less miles the same difficulties will often occur. When we attempt to bend the laws of nature to our purposes, we should remember that they are not always obedient to our common ends, or wishes.

Failure of anticipated

To what extent an electric shock may be sent, we have not ~~[——]~~ ascertained but I think we may safely assert, that a wire of 1,000 miles, cannot remain continuous for a day. Let us then confine our efforts to practicable schemes; and here is scope for the most ingenious.

Man, it is true, possess great powers of invention & has made wonderful improvement But, "A man's a man for all that" and limited to a comparatively small sphere of creation.

July 25

Saturday Morn cloudy, some rain, last night wind NE, the day generally cloudy, some sun at the close.

Democratic convention proposed

The Democratic State Central Committee, (so called) has notified their brethren, that a State convention is to be held at Boston on Wednesday the 11th of September next, to nominate a Governor, Lt. Governor &c for the next political year. Of course we shall again be compelled to turn out at the election in November, to counter out their plans of disorganization. It is a matter of regret that a few men in the City of Boston are able to keep the people of this Commonwealth in a political agitation, to gratify their selfish views. Should these nefarious exertions cease, peace, harmony, & good feelings would prevail among the people and our country would be happy under the curtain of our constitutional privileges. A great portion of the people of the State, are peaceable orderly, and well disposed and ought not to disturbed by these uneasy men, who are, to give them their true name, disturbers of the welfare of community, and would subvert every salutory principle of a republic. When rhapsody and sophistry shall cease to delude the people, these disturbers of society will shrink back to discerned obscurity and honorable men be esteemed. Until this time arrives, though our many think ourselves free men, we are in fact under the worst of Tyrants, and our liberty a misnomer and a force.

Remarks on

July 26

Sunday Morn fair, wind SW, a shower PM & some thunder then fair and clear & wind N.E.

A letter of inquiry

A young man of the name of L.M. Boltwood of the Theol. Institute at Est. Windsor Ct. writes me requesting information respecting two of his ancestors, Sergeant Samuel Boltwood and his son Robert Boltwood, killed in our meadows fight, at the time Deerfield was destroyed in 1704, and makes other inquiries. I shall endeavor to answer his letter as soon as I have examined facts.

Concerning the Boltwoods

The men killed in the meadows fight, according to Rev. Stephen Wiliams of Longmeadow, were Samuel Allis, Serg. Boltwood, Robert Boltwood, Joseph Catlin, Samuel Foot, David Hoit jnr., Jonathan Ingram. Serg, Benjamin Wait, Samuel Warner. (9).

The Boltwoods were from Hatfield, and I believe several others who made a hurried march to Deerfield, on hearing of attack of the enemy. The battle, it is supposed, was what we call Great bottom & Great meadow and perhaps continued into what we call Dickinson's pasture. Part of the enemy, it is said, moved up the river, turned the left flush of the English, and nearly gained their [ ]. The number of English engaged is not known, probably much less than the enemy. The fight must have been generally on the open field ~~ground~~, the [ ] westerly of Broughton's Pond, deeply covered with snow & strong crust at the time.

The following traditional account of the

July 26 the fall of the two Boltwoods, has been given by the late General E. Mattoon of Amherst whose grandmother was a daughter of Samuel Boltwood.
The father being wounded by a ball, supposed mortally, his son Robert took him upon his back to convey him to the fort, which he had nearly reached, and, as he supposed, out of danger, when he was shot by one of the enemy. On receiving his wound the father first urged his son to leave him & seek his own safety in flight, but to this the son would not comport.
If this took place near the fort, the enemy made a closer approach, in their pursuit than I had supposed.

27 Monday Fair morn, wind N, followed by a fine day.
Congress are still in session and now attempting a modification of the Tariff, which is a delicate movement at this time. A reduction of the Revenue, might result in a direct tax for the support of the war with Mexico, and nothing would so effectively open the eyes of the people to its necessity. And let the people feel the expenses of the war, and all the arguments of democracy would not maintain its popularity. Its abetters with Mr. Polk at the head, would soon be seen in the true light.

July 28

Letter from Henry Gassett

Tuesday Fair morn, wind N. day fine & warm at night wind SW
Received a friendly letter from one of my old Antimasonic friends of Boston, Henry Gassett[30] Esqr, with ~~with~~ the Lynn Pioneer containing [ ] on an article of Rev. Parsons Cooke (Author) of the New England Puritan; in which the "Antimasonic Tragedies" are hinted at. It gives me pleasure to hear from Mr. Gasett and other Antimasonic friends who distinguished themselves in the war with masonry, after its murder of Morgan. Dr. Porter remarks of the corps, who lately gave a call & being at Boston informed my old friends that I was still living. The memory of these gentlemen I trust will not be eradicated during my life. They were a worthy set of men and acted from pure principle, even at the risk of their welfare, and those who are [ ] masons exposed their lives. In reviewing the incidents of my life, none give me more satisfaction than the part I took against the murderous [ ], which had become so powerful in some parts of the states as to control elections & appointments to office, and will murder its dissenting members with impunity. If the terms I have used are deemed harsh by any, let them examine the abominable acts administered in the several degrees, as published by numerous seceding masons.

July 29

[30] Henry Gassett (1774-1855) was a prominent Boston businessman who presented Antimasonic literature to various libraries in Massachusetts, (including Amherst College) in an attempt to spread its message. He later created a catalogue of all the books and the libraries he presented them to. He was a delegate for Massachusetts at the AntiMasonic Party convention in 1831.

Wednesday Fair morn, wind SW and the day fair with moderate air

The War

We hear of no movements of our army on the Rio Grand. Will democracy be patient at such delay? Mr. Polk must see to this, as Mr. Hannigan may again demand sight of the Orderly Book of the war office, No secrets in a Republic! is the motto of the day.

30

Thursday. Cloudy morn & wind SW; the day partially fair and warm; thunder at night, but little or no rain.

Mr. Ashmun's speech

Congress. On the 27th instant Mr. Ashmun our Representative, addressed the house for one hour, mainly against the administration, and in review of the course relative to the war with Mexico. He maintained that the Executive had designedly brought the war about. This no doubt is true, but Mr. Polk's obligations to his party, left him no other course. The adjustment of the Oregon dispute would not have been peaceably adopted, had John Bull's power been as feeble as that of Mexico. The object of the war is now clearly ascertained to be, the annexation of California to our Union, and Mexico may be compelled to submit to the encroachment. Mr. Polk is now authorized to conquer peace with Mexico, but on what terms is not known. He may insist on a dissolution of that government and an annexation of its territory to our Union. What power to intrust to one man!

July 31 — Friday Cloudy morn, wind SW. PM fair & cloudy, with variable wind from SW to NE, air pretty warm~

The army — By the latest accounts of our army on the Rio Grand, it appears that the volunteers have not as yet been favored with a opportunity to share their prowess in battle; they are stationed in detached camps, undergoing a sort of hardening, and learning something of camp duty. But Gen. Taylor will find them refractory scholars; and probably he is not any desirous of testing them in a field fight. If he can keep them from mutiny in his camps, he will be fortunate beyond any former commander.

August 1 — Saturday Morn fair, wind N and fair day.

Letter to Mr. Boltwood — Mailed a Letter to Mr. L.M. Boltwood of the Theol. Institute of East Windsor, Ct. in answer to his, noted page 244. Mr. B. is desirous of ascertaining the place where Sergeant Boltwood and his son Robert fell and were buried. In my letter, I have given my opinion on these desiderata founded on my knowledge of the battle and of the nature of the ground, combined with Gen. Mattoon's traditional account. The most fatal part of the action, I think, was at & near the outlet of Broughton's pond, in emptying into Deerfield River at Fields Island, after the enemy turned the left flank of our people and gained the ground in the rear of that flank. If Sergeant Boltwood

was

August 1 was wounded at, or near this outlet, and his son attempted to convey him to the fort upon his back, the direct course to the NW angle was through Dickinson's Great pasture to the west and of the Dickinson, or Ralph William, or Stebbins home lot, which would have been near the fort, as stated by Gen. Mattoon, and course, the Indians must have pursued as far as little meadows hill at the rear of their lots. Young Boltwood might have taken a more easterly course into Ashley, or Sheldon, or Hoyt home lot, on seeing the Indians approaching from the river at Field Island, but if he fell in either of these lots he would not have been very near the fort and out of supposed danger. The Dickinson Williams home lot, I think, best answers the description given by Gen. Mattoon.
The battle is supposed to have began in the Northly part of what is called the Great Bottom, with a part of Rouvill's force which advanced across the River from Sheldons brook at the point of Pettis plain, but [ ] of the Indian pushed up the river through Carter's Land to, or near, Field Island, where the ground favored their approach, which might not have been discovered by our people, until they turned the left flank. But our people fought on the retreat through Great Botton & Great Meadow and perhaps through Dickinsons great pasture. Rouvell is said to have lost about 47 in the action, but this I consider as doubtful. The details of the battle as they have reached us, are not so minute as desired, but for what we have obtained, the above I think is nearly correct. If in the retreat of Capt. Turner's

Aug 1

force, after the attack at the Great falls (now called after his name), in 1676, the Indians pursued thorough our meadow, this the battle I have described was the second fought on the same ground, besides several affairs between small parties.

Respecting the place where the two Boltwoods were buried, I stated [ ] [ ] the following in my letter to Mr. Boltwood. All the slain in the meadow fight as well as within the fort, were interred in one grave in our old yard, on the bank of our river, and of course, here the Boltwoods were without doubt deposited unless they were conveyed home to Hatfield by the surviving Hatfield men; and this is not improbable: And I recommended an examination of the monuments in the graveyard and the records of that town for some memoranda. If none can be found there, little doubt can remain, that the two Boltwoods were buried in our old graveyard.

Questions of this kind, I am aware, will excite very little interest in the young of the present day, who seem to have lost all respect for antiquity.

Dr. Johnson's sentiments on viewing old scenes(?)

But with Dr. Johnson I say "Far be from me or my friends, such frigid philosophy as may conduct us indifferent and unmoved over any ground that has been dignified by wisdom, bravery or virtue.[31]"

Just as I had penned the above, a young friend called with a carriage & invited me to make a circuit through the north meadow, the scene of the events just noted. The surface is now found with promising crops, indicating industry peace

and

[31] From Samuel Johnson's *A Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland*, 1775.

August 1 and harmony: Reminiscences rushed upon my mind, and I pointed out to him the position Rouville took with his captives after retreating his march through the meadow to his baggage left at Sheldons brook; also his movements in the meadow fight, and also the place where Capt. Turner forded the river on his march to the falls in 1676, with other incidents of the Indian wars. I pointed out the heights from which the Rv. Mr. Williams says he beheld the smoldering ruins of his village, What a scene! And what emotions heeard in

Reflections his breast when he beheld his flesh plunging forward in the deep snow to the extent of 300 miles through pathless woods to reach the St. Lawrence, under the ferocious guidance of savages whose [ ] law was the tomahawk and scalping knife. The heart callous to such scenes will receive no useful impressions on tracing out the thrilling events that occurred in our village and adjacent meadows, from Philips war in 1675 to the conquest of Canada in 1760, during which time, except short intervals, the labors were compelled to carry into the field fine arms as well as implements of husbandry, and their lives were in constant jeopardy.

We who now dwell in this peaceful vale, reaping its bountiful products, should not forget the thrilling scenes & sufferings of our brethrens, during the wars, nor their industry and toils in the intervals of peace.

August 2	Sunday Fair morn, wind NE; day clear and pleasant air, The ground is now dry, and no old fashioned thunder showers occur.
3	Monday Fair morn, wind N. and a fair day. PM wind SW
Request of G.T. Davis	George T. Davis Esqr. of Greenfield requests me to furnish an appropriate Indian name for a new public Hall erecting in the main village in that town. I have recommended the Indian name Green River, as found in a copy of one of Deeds, from Chaque, the sachum of Pocumtuck in 1665, to Dedham people.
Indian name of Green River	The name is spelt Pickcamnueagan and Pickeamonuag either of which will answer & a taste now prevails for giving Indian names to places, but few have descended to us, and most of our rivers, hills &c bear English designations. Most Indian names are significant and as written by our people, often contain whole sentences, which renders the pronunciation difficult, and the accent and emphasis uncertain. In the Chaque deed to the Dedham people the following names are found which are supposed to be small tenants of land on our river. Viz. from SW to NE Neiyryocossuck Tomholisick, Musquomcossick,
other I. names	Ustowweick, Worsquuewiverg, Pachococc, Sunsuck (hill). But I am unable to locate them. Perhaps they are in tracts of meadow, on the west side of the River

August 3 from Great river up to Still-water, and Sumsuck hill, the height of the mountain on the coast.

The ground at Sheldon's brook

The ground ~~land~~ at and about Sheldon's Brook north of Carters land, always excites my attention when passing it from its being the place where Hertel de Rouville assembled his captives, after the destruction of our village in March 1704, and prepared for his march to Canada. The west bank of the river, at and above the brook, has under gone considerable extraction since that time, by the abrasion of the ~~water~~ bank, ever ~~[—]~~ since my recollection. Near the mouth of the brook was the ford where Capt. Turner past the river on his expedition to the great fall on the Connecticut in 1676; and from the old Indian path as indeed the two hills to Petty's plain, in the direction to Greenfield meadow.

Turner's ford

Williams' view

Here on ascending the second rise to the Plain, the Rev. John Williams took his mournful view of the smoking village, as he states in his "Redeemed Captive." This I call Classic ground not to be forgotten, and I would give the upper height the name of Williams farewell View, But interesting as is this ground to me, it is now scarcely known to our young men, who seem indifferent to antiquated events, and look not for ~~ground~~ places that have been "dignified" by the virtuous ~~suffering~~ trials & [ ] of their Fathers, whose ferocious enemy Rushed in using [ ] to pounce upon their prey.

Tuesday Morn fair, wind SW, the day continued fair & pretty hot.

4 Joseph Henry Esqr. & Lady, arrived on a visit & son Arthur's from Boston. Left the City at 7 AM and arrived here about 5 PM=10 hours passage.

August 5	Wednesday Fair morn wind SW and day clear & hot. No indications of thunder showers have been noticed for several days, and the ground is dry which must
Weather	check the growth of the second crop of grass, but the weather is fine for the crop of Indian corn and broom bush.
6	Thursday Morn thinly cloudy, but some broken and wind SW; the day in general fair and warm.
Retrospection	The frequent requisitions of various gentlemen for Indian names and transactions at and in the vicinity of our town, has induced me to review and continue my Antiquarian Researches; and though I find nothing new, I meet facts which [ ] strengthen my former conclusions. In my teens I might have obtained many particulars from my Father and other aged men, who are now beyond inquiry, and whose accounts I should now consider of high interest. My Grandfather lived to the age of 92 and was born August 1688. I will remember him home while confined age to his house. He was one of the Deerfield Captives in 1704, and whole in active life he related many particulars to his family: and from my father I obtained many facts retold by his father of importance, who also lived to the age of 92, and kept a sort of journal of later Indian expeditions. I now regret that I had not made more particular inquiries of him in relation to many points of interest relating to the history of the town.
Desiderata	A plan of the village as it existed in 1704 with the the picketed fort in the center, and also one of the meadow, exhibiting the roads at and

August 6 prior to that time, aare now desiderata. We have an old [ ] of the north meadow, called Fisher's plan showing the line of the first lots, & the river, but upon a small scale, and it is deficient in minutiae. Routell's map of the village & north mead[dow] from an critical survey in which a meridian was traced, astronomically, is a good one, but of course, does not exhibit the old roads & lots.

Old plan

[ ]

My Progenitors

My Progenitors were the following: Nicholas Hoyt of Windsor, Conn., David Hoyt of Hadley, removed to Deerfield, Jonathan Hoyt, David Hoyt (2). Formerly the name was generally spelt Hoit. Nicholas I suppose came from England with Gov. Winthrop 1630, and was one of the Company who settled Windsor: he had a brother of the name of Simon Hoit, settled at the same place.

David, son of Nicholas, was one of the settlers of Hadley, and was with Capt. Turner in the attack at the great falls, afterwards settled at Deerfield and was one of the Captives taken at this place in 1704, & died near Cowas from starvation. His son Jonathan was captivated at the same time, carried to Canada, at the age of 16, and resided with the Indians 2 ½ years, at a place called Lorette, near Quebec. See my Brother Elihu's "Brief Sketch of the first settlement of Deerfield," published 1833.

7 Friday. Morn fair, wind NE, followed by a fair day, pretty hot; the sky hazy but no indications of showers. Might not one of Espy's fire produce a sudden change?

August 7

Congress soon to adjourn

We are looking daily for the close of the session of Congress, wh[e]n President Polk and his cabinet will be left to manage the Mexican War as may best suit their designs; and whether they will place any reliance on the opinions of General Scott is doubtful. This officer's experience and knowledge of war may smack to much of the old tactics to suit their untried theories, which defy all lessons drawn from former practices of armies.

Remarks on the war

The campaigns of [ ], Marlborough, Eugene, Conde, Saxe, & Frederick 3rd have lost their éclat in the immethodical operations of Bonaparte. But this heedless innovator, once so much admired by our democracy, has lost something of his military character, by suffering himself to be beaten by the Crowned heads of Europe & finally by his prostration by the consummate Wellington at Waterloo.

This innovating system is not yet to be given up. Our democratic government is now attempting to show that the old system of discipline with its modes of attack & defense of fortified places, is to be abandoned for the volunteer scheme, which requires no provision in structure or preparation.

A new mode of conquering contiguous territories is adopted. The populace of these countries are first told of the blessings of fine government, where universal suffrage is allowed and to the people of course, under better or no restraint in licentious acts. Having swallowed

August 7

Annexation matter of

this bait, and resolved to separate themselves from their legitimate government, they are next invited to join our union, and on accepting the offer, an army is sent to aid them in their struggle for democratic liberty. And thus the revolting territory is annexed to us. If a war follows, and the injured nation pushes a military force in the revolted territory, it is said to be an invasion of our area. Thus is the territory of Mexico and other [ ] is to be sliced off, and annexed to our union, until, at last, all North America is brought under our grasp. This is the democratic system now in operation. In all this precedence moral right is out of the question, and pawn the only criterion. But unlike the ancient Romans, we may find the nations of Europe too powerful and eagle eyed, to submit to our encroachments on their possessions in America. Congress will leave Mr. Polk in command of the purse strings of the treasury, and his 50,000 volunteers, to conquer peace with Mexico, and on his own terms; and what these may be is known only to himself and his cabinet. California to the latitude of the mouth of the Rio Grand, will probably be the slice for damages and costs.

8

Saturday Morn fair, wind SW, but somewhat hazy. PM Cloudy with some rain, which has produced an agreeable temperature of the air, invigorating to the animal spirits, and refreshing to vegetation.

Here though we sometimes feel the extremes of heat & vegetation shirks from the glaring rays of the sun, the unerring laws of Providence continue their course to furnish the requisite humidity

August 9

Sunday Cloudy morn, mountain capped with fog, and wind NW, but mainly calm, some sun before noon, Most of the day cloudy.

Notice of Dr. Lepsius' discoveries in Egypt

M. de Humbolt in a letter to the Academy of Inscriptions & Belle Letters at Paris gave the following in relation to Dr. Lepsius' discoveries in Egypt. He says 1300 magnificent drawings, thousands of sketches taken on the spot, and all the manuscripts, had already arrived in Boston; and two vessels [ ] monuments collected, on the way. These including specimens of Egyptian art under all the dynasties, from the [ ] of Manotho lower than the Ptolimo. These original monuments, bearing the names of the 4th, 5th, & 6th dynasties, two or three thousand years before our era, will be of great importance. Images & inscriptions from the copper mine distant in the peninsula of Sinai, and bearing the name of Cheops, are numerous. Among the treasures are the Great stairs of the Nilancter of Sennah, with the emblem of Amanhemer [ ], proving that 4000 years ago, the mean height of the river are exceeded that of to day by 22 feet; hundreds of books bring dates; 500 large historical papyri; materials for the [ ] of the Congarea, Nubia & Bega tan years; and ancient Ethiopian inscriptions found in the pyramids of Mirol, traced in an unknown alphabet. (Boston paper August 1st) I have been waiting with impatience to hear from Dr. Lepsius discoveries, and should now look for an important work from him. The history of Egypt may at last be known, and part of

Saturday Rambler

something

August 9 something more of other ancient nations of Africa and Asia, beyobd what is found in Herodatus and other ancient authors. Dr. Lepsius went out under the patronage of the Prussian Government, and was furnished with money to defray expenses of subterranean researches, and he employed large numbers of laborers. Some previous accounts I have noticed. What an interesting subject for in young minds!

10 Monday Fair morn wind NW, Continued fair most of the day, but became cloudy towards the close, when some rain fell.

The War Mr. Polk's war makes but slow progress, but preparations are making for a push into Mexico as soon as his army can be furnished with the necessities and the heat of the climate will admit. This delay was not even dreamed of by our wild democracy, who supposed nothing [ ] [ ] but at the order the President to march, on the [ ] pass de charge, & take possession of the whole of Mexico & without waiting for the establishment of magazines and military bases, or disciplining troops as under the old art of war now become obsolete to our militia enthusiasts.

If Mr. Polk has now discovered that soldiers require food, clothes, sleep &c., and he is now constructing waggons, shaving out tent poles, & building boats & pontoons for his army; and that time is required for these preparations, he must not forget that his

democrats

August 10 democrats are impatiently watching his delays and may construe them into a tardiness inconsistent with democratic "progress" which asks not for precedents or cool reflections but "goes ahead" regardless of consequences. But Mr. Polk may, perhaps, escape their condemnation, by adopting the new system of conquest by gradual annexation alamode ala Texas, but it is not to supposed his impetuous friends will be satisfied short of the whole of Mexico, and at length of the West India Johns "wrongfully" held by European powers who remain blind to the blessings of democratic liberty, which is the unalienable right of all men, accepting the black race who were "created for the convenience of the other part of God's creation."

11 Tuesday. Fair morn, wind NE, and a fine clear day and pleasant air. PM wind SW

12 Wednesday. Fair Morn, wind SW and a fair day followed.

It is rumored that the Mexican Government is disposed to bring the war to a close by surrendering California to our Government. What foundation there is

Mexico for this rumor I know not. But this probably will be the result: and in vein will she expect more favorable terms by a prolongation of the contest, unless she settles down upon a prominent and energetic government, and becomes a military nation. Without this attribute Mexico will at all times be compelled to submit to our encroachments and cease to be an independent nation. The line of demarcation

August 12 which our government has in view is at best, as far south as the latitude of the mouth of the Rio Grand, and including the whole of the peninsula of California—A country little less than the our half of the United States as now limited or that of Rome in the height of its power! and our future history may be filled with scenes of ambition and injustice not as appalling than those of that usurping nation, which at length met its fate in a total [ ], fall and extinction of its [ ]—the sure path of inordinate ambition.

13 Thursday. Morn fair, wind SW; clear day and pretty hot.

The old Indian Deed I have noticed, on page 252, from Chaque to Dedham people was given to Capt. John Pynchon of Springfield for the use and behoof of Majr. Eleazor Lusher and Ensign Daniel Fisher, and other English of Dedham, their associates & assigns, and to them and their heirs forever

Indian Deed Description of the land is as follows: "Certain tracts of land at Pocumtuck further side, or upper side, or North side of Pocumtuck river: that is to say beginning a little above where Pickcommeagon River runs into Pocumtuck river, and so a little way up Pickcommeag river, and then leaving Pickcommeagon river, runs off to the Hill Sunsuck westward. All the lands from the Hill Sunsock on the westward down to the River Pocumtuck, eastward, below Nayyocossic to Pochewee near the mouth Puckcommeagan river

August 13 which parcels of land are called 1. Nayyocossick, 2. Tomholissick, 3. Masquanocossick, 4. Ustowwack, 5.Wusquviawwag, and so to Sunsuck Hill, or by whatever names the land is or may be called."[32]

Indian names of places

Susnsuck Hill, I suppose to be, our west mountain extending southerly to Stillwater & the tract conveyed all the land lying between the mountain and Deerfield river, down to Judith's point, at the mouth of Green River, but the northerly boundary is uncertain.

The names above given may be parcels of land on the west side of our river, extending from Stillwater down to Judith's point, which seems not to be included in the Deed: or the names may have been inhabited lodges on the brow of the meadow hills, west.

Present names

The present names of these meadow tracts on the west side of our river, are 1. Upper new fort (next to Still water) 2. New Fort, 3. Old Fort, 4. Carter's Land, 5. Clesson's Swamp. The numerical figures placed above the names are intended ~~supposed~~ to correspond with the ~~same~~ names & numerals placed above the Indian names, in the extract from the Deed. If my construction of the Deed is correct, we have the Indian names of the meadows on the west, and part of the North side of the river. Judith's Point was called Rockewee:--Deed dated 24th Feby 1665 and witnessed by John Pynchon (Justice) and Wequanock by "his mark V" who helped the sachem in making the bargain. Worthington in his History Dedham says Capt. John Pynchon procured four deeds from the Indians, which were deposited in deacon Aldis' Box. The copy of the deed in my possession was obtained by uncle

Jonathan

[32] See Sheldon's *History of Deerfield*, Vol. 1, page 8 for a complete transcription, with alternate spellings.

August 13 Jonathan Hoyt while attending the General Court at Boston, from a Dedham gentleman; and after his death presented to me by his son Cephas Hoyt. Of its genuineness I think there can be no doubt.

For a notice on Major Eleazer Lusher and Ensign Daniel Fisher, & his father, see Worthington's Dedham; and for explanation of many Indian names, see Roger Williams' Key to the Languages of the natives of New England, published in the collection of the Historical Society at Boston. The work may be found in our social library.

Drake's Book of the Indians of North America contains a numerous [ ] of the names of most noted chiefs with sketches of their characters, a work of much research into the Indian History of our Country.

Note: 1. Copies of the 3 other deeds, of Pocumtuck would be interesting to us. Since they might furnish other Indian names of arts of this town.

2d In the copy of the deed I have, the name of Weporhoal, brother of the Sachem Chaque, is inserted. In my Antiquarian Researches, page 74, it is printed Wassahaal.

14 Friday. Fair morn, wind SW last night very hot and mosquitoes plenty, the day hot, but there is no indication of thunder showers which generally occurred 50 or 60 years ago when this kind of weather prevailed. On this decrease of showers I have previously remarked in my journal; and [ ]

August 14

and now confirmed in the opinion that this variation is to be explained by the fact that the clearing of the country of its woods effects evaporation, the formation of clouds, and the electrical state of the atmosphere. In a country carved with dense woods, the humidity of the soil must be greater than that of an open one, where the suns rays are unobstructed: and in the former case, the soil will remain humid, but in the latter arid. And it is found the rivers and springs lessin their quantity of water as the contiguous woods are cleared off, and small streams & lakes in some instances ~~disappear~~ vanish. Here it appears that through the agency of man, alterations may be effected on the Earth's surface of an important [ ] on [ ] [ ].

Effects of clearing our country of its woods

~~conditions of the surface of the earth. The~~

He may cut down or tunnel through mountains; fill up vallies; drain morasses or inundate dry ~~other~~ tracts; construct Canals, rail ways build cities, ~~raise [ ]~~ Chinese walls & Egyptian pyramids. But in all these operations he is only <u>using</u> the laws of nature; and when he attempts to <u>bend</u> them to his purpose or step beyond them, his efforts become vain, and he finds himself a limited being, and his proudest works but baubles when compared with those of the great <u>Prisnam Mobile</u>.

15

<u>Saturday</u> Morn thinly cloudy and wind NW cloudy day, with some rain and cooler air than several past days.

Mr. Ashmun sends me his printed

Mr. Ashmun's speech

speech delivered in the House of Representatives July 27th. The same I have noticed at page 247. His position that the President had intentionally brought on the war with Mexico, is well sustained by various documents cited. But in this course who will entertain a doubt, that the President followed the presented scheme of democracy, understood at the time of his nomination. The possession of the "whole of Oregon" was introduced in the plan; but Victoria's Cannon, alarmed Mr. Polk, and he ventured to vary from his instructions, though at the risk of his popularity, as is shown by Mr. Senator Hanagan's remarks on the subject. The President has been true to his party, so far on the plan relates to Mexico, and which no doubt will be faithfully executed, to the satisfaction of democracy.

The War [ ]

The following has been the process. Texas, by various turnings & twisting, having been annexed to our Union, afford an convenient pretext for sending an army of "observation" to the Mexico, to watch any movements the Mexicans might make to protect their frontier; least the army remaining in it, camp at Corpuss Christi unmolested our Government perceiving that the occupancy of this position was not certain to produce a [ ] ordered Gen. Taylor to advance opposite to Matamoros, a Mexican town, occupied by their troops. This movement it was foreseen would produce the collision and efficiently

15 accomplish the design. Gen. Taylor selected the desired position and threw up temporary works for its production. But Mr. Polk and his cabinet, better used in democratic chicanery than in strategy, seem not to have been aware that other troops would require provisions for subsistence, and lines of operation with a competent magazines at Point Isabell & other places. This exposed position of our army being perceived by the Mexican commander, Gen. Aristo, he [ ] the Rio Grand with about 6000 or 7000 men, and after cutting off a reconnoitering party from Gen. Taylors camp, took a position in his rear, thus rendering his situation critical.

Development of

The President's object was now accomplished, he commented the state of the army to Congress, and proposed the raising a volunteer force of 50,000 men to carry on the war with Mexico and conquer a peace. This was readily granted, with 10 millions of dollars for the outfit.

Gen. Taylor, in the mean time, extricated his force from their integral position procured a supply of provisions from Point Isabell, defeated the Mexicans in two attacks on the 8th and 9th of May, & compelled them to repass the River. The main object of Mr. Polk was now accomplished, namely, war with Mexico, by which California is to be wrested from that republic. His movements since are all adopted to his scheme, as Mr. Ashmun has clearly shown by cited documents. If, says Mr. Ashmun, "such schemes are

to

August 15 to be quietly suffered—if the public voice does not rebuke them—I see a pretentious omen of the early and premature decay into which our institutions are fast falling."[33] But what avail such admonitions against a ruthless democracy, which trods out convenient demarkcations on maps, without regarding old titles, or moral obligations, now deemed obsolete in the democratic code.

16 Sunday Morn cloudy but soon fair, with SW wind, and a fair day, but many loose clouds, and air hot~

For some time past I have omitted a thermmetrical state of the air, not however because I have lost confidence in these observations when made with good thermometers; but from the want of accuracy in noting them, and the defective mode of exposing the instrument at the proper times & place. In clustered cities where the air is [ ], especially in a calm, the thermometer gives but an [ ] indication of the true state of the ~~heat of the~~ atmospheric temperature, and were where the buildings are sparse errors arise from suspending the instruments on the walls or bodies of trees &c. There the differences observed were of the same instrument. The most favorable position I think is found in suspending the instrument from the limb of a tree where it is shadowed from the sun's rays, but even when these expressed some unfavorable effect may arise from the influence of the tree.

Our

[33] From *Speech of Mr. Ashmun of Massachusetts delivered in the House of Representatives, Monday, July 27, 1846: in the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union on the Bill for the erection of additional Fortifications.* (7 pages) 1846.

August 16 Our papers often give us thermometrical observations made in different places, but from the want of knowledge of the manner in which the instrument was exposed, we are left in doubt as to the accuracy of the observations. and no doubt the measurements are often defective in their graduations.

17 Monday Morn thinly cloudy, with SW wind, day cloudy and fair, and hot.

Close of the session of Congress

Congress closed its session on the 10th instant (Monday last). When the session commenced it was the design of a majority of the House to bring on a war with Great Britain by persisting in their scheme of claiming the territory of Oregon up to the latitude of 54°40, which they chose to call the "whole of Oregon"—A territory to which they could show no more title than to the shore of the northern sea. No matter about the justice of the claim! If persisted in, they

Remarks

knew a war with Great Britain would be the consequence, and would afford democracy the opportunity of fighting that nation of "Robbers & Pirates"; and Mr. Polk was supposed to be pledged to that cause. But for once the Senate, by its prudence, defeated the nefarious plans to the great disappointment of the wild war hawks in part of Congress. The plan of slicing off California from Mexico was not however abandoned; and the steps now taken will no doubt accomplish that scheme. Mr. Polk now pretends to be disposed to end the war with Mexico, on terms advantageous to both nations. What those terms may be is unknown

August 17 to all except his confidents; but no discerning man who has watched his, and the democratic movements, ~~now [ ]~~ is at a loss to conjecture the terms. The annexation of California, will afford a fine opportunity for forming new states, to be added to our union, and thereby insure the predominance of the southern over the northern states. To a peace, on these terms no doubt Mr. Polk will satisfy the voracity of his clever friends the vociferous delusions of "natural and private rights." Mexico must however, pay the cost of [ ], and whether she will be left an independent nation is to be seen in the result. But Mr. Polk must not accept of terms until his Regiment of military emigrants, under Col. Stevens on doubles Cape Horn and have grasped the promised land of California.

As Congress has now closed its session, Mr. Polk is left to manage the war according to his discretion—But by the latest accounts from the army it does not appear that a movement is soon to be made towards the City of Mexico. The Picayune says ships are arriving at New Orleans bringing home volunteers who are to be "mustered out of the army", among which is one company of Alabama troops, Six companies of other Alabamians, all of the Louisiana and the St. Louis Legion are to follow as speedily as transportation can be furnished. The whole to amount to 5000. The ostensible ground of this movement is said to be the disinclination of the men to enlist for 12 months. But probably those as well as the other volunteers, will exhibit no reluctance at the President's order to return home.

August 17 and lay up their rifles, tomahawks and implements of agriculture, or the mechanic arts, which the[y] threw aside at a moment of military enthusiasm with out reflecting on the hardships of the camp or the fatal diseases of the climate, which probably now prevail to a considerable extent. The same paper says "more extensive hospitals had been ordered to be erected at Point Isabell, for the accommodation of a large number of sick. Poor fellows! When they left their proper employments, little did they apprehend that malaria would thin their ranks more effectively than Mexican bullets. Our young men will probably learn one useful lesson from this campaign—namely, that Citizens are not soldiers, and that the art of war is not taught by bands of musick on militia parades, or by speeches and toasts delivered at elegant dinners prepared at school, hotels, where the "men refreshed themselves after the fatigues of the day". And well might it be, were the lesson to extreme to some of our political patriots who are charmed by such frivolity, and think it a demonstration of the military strength of our country. Mr. Polk faithful to his party, has invoked the country in an unnecessary war; and it is now his task to bring it to a close before the people feel its cost and rally at the ballot box is to express their detestation of his measures, and to place pure ~~patriots~~ patriots in office who will keep the welfare of the country in view, rise above the vulgar prejudices generated by the demagogue and render the people happy.

August 18 Tuesday Fair morn, and NE and cool air, the day continued the same and wind unchanged.

Rail Road

Trains of cars commenced running on the Rail road from Bloody Brook to Northampton on Monday the 17th instant. The completion of the road from Bloody Brook to Greenfield, on the injudicious route over ravines, which ought, and might been avoided, will hardly be effected this season; and the bridge at Cheapside will require some time for the finishment.

Our street has hitherto been a thoroughfare for stage coaches, North and South, but on the completion of railroad the traveler will have but a distant glance of our village, and we should know of his passage only by the puffing smoke of the engine, dragging the line of cars on the [ ] route, remarkable only from its anomalous features and its uninteresting prospects. To this location of the road, we would complacently submit had not nature provided a more eligible, cheaper, safer and permanent rout at the foot of our eastern hills, crosing our home lots on nearby bad land. To account for the singular selection of the route, would be difficult on the supposition that it was dictated by sound minds. The case is too plain to admit the slightest doubt, as to the wisdom of the location

August 19 Wednesday Morn fair & NE wind, air cool and fair day

Reconn aissance of old scenes

Through the kindness of my friend Dr. S.W. Williams who [ ] [ ] I took a reconnaissance of the ground about the mouth of Sheldon's brook, the interesting site where Hertel de Rouville collected his possessions taken at the destruction of our village in 1704, and made his preparation for his march to Canada. On the callous indifference ~~with which [ ] [ ]~~ of most of our young men in passing over this and other scenes of Indian ~~incursions~~ devastation of our early settlements, I have remarked (on page 250) But it gives me pleasure to find ~~in~~ Dr. Williams & a few others, [ ] the sentiments of ~~sentiments~~ Dr. Johnson expressed on viewing the ruins of Iona in the western Islands of Scotland ~~[ ]~~ as I have quoted in the same page.

Reflections

If such [ ] are considered by the young as [ ] to old men in their dotage, the latter (to use the word of the same sage), will say That man is little to be envied, whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plain of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona[34]

Impressed with these sentiments I accompany Dr. Williams over the old Indian ground and sought out the places where our distressed people trembling under apprehensions of the tomahawk, submitted to

[34] From Samuel Johnson's *A Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland*, 1775.

August 19 to the fury of the savage captors, who bound the prisoners with the hellish design to sacrifice them in case of the defeat of the force engaged with our

Sheldon Brook people who had pressed upon them in their retreat through the north meadows. The ~~[ ] with~~ order was given by Hurtel to [ ] in case of ~~[ ] [ ]~~ a defeat of his troops ~~with [ ]~~

The ground south of the Brook is now generally cleared of its woods from [ ] ~~near the~~ the west bank of Deerfield river to ~~the east of~~ the Jones House, situated on the present road. Here said my Grandfather, one of the prisoners, He saw ~~found~~ stacks of snow shoes, packs, and other bags, deposited, prior to the attack on the fort and village, as related in my Antiquarian Researches, (Page 186)

Old Road After viewing this interesting site, we proceeded up the road to Petti's plain, and there in an easterly direction to the crest of the hill I have named Williams farewell View and noted the old road up a ravine where formally stood the old

Indian tree Indian pine here, bearing the representation of a human body, readily cut in the bark with the hatchet. The tree has been filled and the body removed to our village as an Indian relick. From this place we traced the old road some

Turners route distance north, our open ground recently cleared. The raid is interesting from its being the route taken by Capt. Turner on his march to the Great falls, now bearing his name to attack Philips Indians in May 1676 as re

August 19

as related in my Researches, page 178 and the same road point out the route of Capt. Holyoke on the retreat of Turners from across the plains, followed by the furious enemy who pressed upon the rear And here probably Scattered along the road, [ ] observing the [ ] of some the unfortunate sufferers ~~in obscurity.~~

Afternoon note

After viewing these interesting sites, we returned to the village by Cheapside full of recollections of the sufferings of our fore fathers.

Rail road Bloody Brook

In the afternoon, being invited to visit Bloody Brook, by Col. Wilson, we proceeded to that place and examined the Rail Road now completed to that village ~~place~~ from Northampton and witnessed the arrival of the cars with their numerous passengers. The novelty of the operation attracted the attention of the people, to the place and all was heavy [ ] ~~and~~ and several ~~several~~ stage coach is in waiting, to convey the passengers on the route northward. Then we witnessed scenes different from my morning excursion. ~~Instead of wild military scenes~~ But we have ~~witnessed~~ noticed the progress of modern improvements in steam power, by which long trains of cars are [ ] along the iron strapped way with the rapidly of at best of 20 miles per hour. Had our forefathers been told of this progress of the arts they would have insisted it as the prediction of utopian visionaries.

The invention it must be confessed, is ingenious; but I could not but regret that a work so expensive should be constructed with so great a portion perishing materials, as that timber & plough which must require frequent repairs & lesson the profits of the Proprietors

August 19 A gentleman present, remarked that rail roads would soon be laid aside, and conveyances by lightning be substituted.

On the whole though it may be sound, we have much greater improvements in the mechanic arts, the question presents, whether we have become a better and more happy people than our fathers?

20 Thursday Morn thinly cloudy, wind SW; the day cool & generally cloudy.

Rail road cost of

The cost of the rail road from Northampton to Greenfield is estimated at 3000.00 dollars. Is it possible that the avails from freight and passengers should amount to 18000 dollars, per year. The interest at 6 per cent, and include expenses & repairs?

From its novelty and [ ] a rail road changes the people- and without reflection and calculation they seem ready to believe that their welfare and prosperity rest on their construction, but I am far from believing they are so important as is generally supposed. When they extend between great marts their utility becomes obvious, and they be supported and be profitable, but for the accommodation of a few unknown towns, it is a great error to suppose them useful. A rail road through a town, say of 6 miles squares at the shortest distance and east about 1200.00 dollars, and where is the [ ] town that can afford this expense; and if

August 20

ten or a dozen towns enlist in the same project, the difficulty is not diminished. The people in their enthusiasm may subscribe one third or one half of the expense; but without foreign aid the project dies.

Towns unable to construct them

Take for example, the towns on either side of the Connecticut, above Springfield; and the inhabitants could rouse but a moiety of the sum required for a rail road through them. The present road from Springfield to Northampton & its continuation to Greenfield could not have been constructed without the aid of foreign subscription, and why Boston ~~was~~ became enlisted in its favor does not clearly appear; but a~~s~~ with Hartford we may perceive the motive.

21

Friday Morn cloudy with some rain and SW wind. Day continued cloudy to the close.

Odd Fellowship

Odd Fellowship This institution which has recently become fashionable among the people of a certain description begins to unite the attention of the thinking part of the people, as a scheme of a danger character.

[ ]
[ ]

Some unknown gentleman sends me by mail, the Westfield Standard of the 19th instant containing the [ ] Dr. E Wills of Harvard, a member of the order, in which the plan of this secret society is stripped of its disguise and exhibited in its true form, [ ] and fooling.

On the prostrations of Freemasonry after

August 20

Freemasonry

its murder of William Morgan by sinking him in the Niagara River and for its other atrocities, I predicted a resusatation of the order, in some form, but it was hardly supposed the substitute would so nearly resemble freemasonry as is now found in the order of Odd Fellowship; and I have considered the revival too puerile to deserve much notice. But its pernicious bearing on the welfare of community is likely to equal that of freemasonry, unless the sturdy part of community shall put a check upon its progress, which is now enlisting the youth of the country, as well as some others whose more advanced age, unbalanced minds and want of discernment render them the dupes of delusion. Since pursuing Dr Willis' rumination, I have looked over a pamphlet recently published at New-York, which developes the scheme of odd fellowship, and how it to be as ridiculous as freemasonry, if not as pernicious as that order. To account for the propensity of a portion of the people, to the ridiculous, it may be sufficient to observe that in all communities men incapable of raising themselves to distinction by their acquirements, but seek it through pretensions of possessing important secrets, unknown to the community at large.
Odd fellowship despicable as it may be

August 21

be found more dangerous than it is supposed to be and probably will be found in on ballot boxes, exercising an influence, not now dreamed of by the steady part of community, as was the case of freemasonry prior to the murder of Morgan.

The editor of the Westfield Standard promises to wield his pen in opposing the progress ~~of~~ of the pernicious schemes now so rife among our young men.

The New York developments, it is supposed contain the method of initiation and obligations as imposed by the [ ] prior to the downfall of masonry, but now in some degree would to render them some what less disgusting to the initiates: but the plan and design of the order remain equally objectionable to good sense.

22

Saturday. Morn cloudy with SW wind, the day partially cloudy.

Son and family on a visit

My son Arthur, wife a little Charles left us on a visit to their friends at Halifax.

Allen's speech

I have just perused the speech of Senator Allen of Ohio, delivered Feby 10 & 11 ~~of Febrary last~~ and the opinion I had formed of the man, from his course in the Senate is now confirmed ~~[——]~~ viz. that ~~this~~ he is a thorough going democrat or rather a Jacobin exactly fitted for ~~the~~ a leader of a wild people in revolution or for the overthrow of law[ ] and a wildly regulated government; and also to demolish all the institutions sanctioned by antiquity, without reflecting on the consequences. to such men

August 22 we may [ ] all the political distinctions which infect our country and the misfortune is that a few such distractions can deceive and mislead a fraction of the uninformed & well meaning people of this country .
Had he [ ] [ ] less, and Mr. Hanagan of the Senate, been successful in their plans, we should at this time, been plunged into a war with Great Britain as well as with Mexico, for the [ ] possession of a tract of woods, situated north of the latitude of the 49th degree, on which no prudent planter would have [ ] at a gift. It is time for the people to know the designs of such men, and to [ ] them in the background where they would/will no longer have the power of disturbing the [ ] of society. I am gratified to see Mr. Allen's speech in a pamphlet form & hope it will be read in Europe where it will serve as an Index to the Whims & designs of our democratic leaders Mr. Allen may figure for a while in our back-woods, but within a short term he would probably sink to oblivion and be remembered only by his wild extravagance & low prejudice against the refined nations of Europe whose governments he represents as combinations [ ] for the ~~liberties~~ [ ] of the liberties & happiness of man. The combination of the crowned heads of Europe against the ambition of Mr. Allens "Great Man" of France was an unpardonable sin, yes this "Great man" whose ambition led him to [ ] to [ ] all the governments if compared place his brethren upon their [ ] with man [ ] [ ], was according to Mr. Allen personally laudable course [ ] for [ ] the people of Europe, thru rights & liberties

August 22 When ~~the~~ [ ] them he [ ] any attempted to [ ] them <u>even to common</u> sense, are fruitless and the only remedy to the applied is to show to the people their insanity.

But deep as is the delusion imposed onto a portion of the people, by the sophistry of reckless men, it is a matter of greater [ ] that a majority of the people of the United States are not yet prepared for the introduction of so ruinous a scheme of radicalism in that regard by the wild furry of Mr. Allen; and when the wise course of the Senate in defeating the designs of this madman and his associates in the case of Oregon, shall be perceived by the people, they will present their thanks to this majority for saving them from the ruin and measures into which this reckless impetuosity would have plunged them.

An analysis of the speech of Mr. Allen would present a crude mess of ingredients between which no affinity exists either chemical or political. [ ] then [ ] congratulate ourselves on the prospects now presented which promise a certain action of the Constitution proposed by Washington, and his Federal associates who foresaw the ravings of wild democracy, and provided a check by a Senate composed of men less liable to the fury of a disordered [ ] likely to impart the popular branch of Congress when the wild passion of the people should be roused and calm reason set aside, through influence and [ ] delusion

August 23 Sunday Cloudy and rainy morn, wind SW; day generally cloudy but without much rain.

Mrs. Swan death

Died at Conway last Mrs. Experience Swan, 3d daughter of my late Uncle Jonathan Hoyt. She resided several years at Cheapside, and sometime after the death of her husband, Joseph Swan, removed to Conway & resided with her son Guy Swan: aged 79 years. My uncle's family consisted of 2 Sons & 4 daughters: Clement, Cephas, Abigail, Hannah, Experience, and Sally. Clement and Sally emigrated to the State of Vermont with her husband Wilkinson. Clement had a numerous family, several of whom emigrated to the western country. Abigail married an Allen of Greenfield; Hannah Capt. Severence of Shelburne, and after his death, a Martindale of Greenfield. Mrs. Swan was the last of my Uncle Jonathan's family. Cephas lived and died on the Cheapside farm, in this this town and had two children. My Great Grandfather, Deacon David Hoyt, first settled on this farm, and built a small house in the side of the hill, north of the present Wait house. He was taken by the French & Indians when our village was destroyed in 1704, and on the route to Canada famished in the woods near Coos, now Newbury in Vermont.

24 Monday Morn fair, wind N. and fair day succeeded. The remains of Mrs. Swan were brought from Conway & interred in our Cemetery. Attending her funeral and

at

August 24 attempting to mount a buggy wagon I lost my balance and fell to the ground with considerable concussion & some injury. The fall was owing to incaution

Accidental fall & ought to have been avoided by due course. Thus most of accidents we must [ ] are the result of our own carelessness; lest we are at the best but short sighted beings, and often interrupt what the laws of nature forbid.

The Poet expresses the idea as follows: I think we, like some weak prince, the eternal cause prone for his favorites to reverse his laws? When the mountain trembles from on high, Shall gravitation cease if you go by?[35]

25 Tuesday Morn fair with NE wind the day fair & cloudy.

About 4 o'clock this morning (I am informed) at considerable shock of an Earthquake arrived here. The [ ] was short, but so great as to wake people from sleep. Earthquakes are rare in New England, and the surface of the earth

Earthquake seems to have acquired a state of repose though from the abrupt hills and deep cavities it would appear that this has not always been the case. Is the explosive subterranean matter here exhausted, and we feel only the concussion from explorations in distant places where the laboratory is still active & its safety valve occasionally obstructed? The hypothesis which explains the cause of Earthquakes [ ] the existence of subterranean fires I [ ] to be well established by geological investigations and phenomena very where [ ]

See

[35] Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man.*

August 25	See Bakewell's Geology Chap 13th where the subject is treated to considerable length, and satisfactory conclusions drawn from the numerous extinct
Explained by Bakewell	volcanoes found in various parts of the Globe, it appears that our Earth is in more tranquil state than formerly; and whether new volcanoes may not hereafter appear is a great one we are not able to solve.
Central fires Volcanos safety valves	If the central part of our Globe consists of a mettal mass, as one of our geologists suppose, then volcanoes are but vents, or a sort of safety valves for the protruded matters of the grand Laboratory, at the opening of [ ] channels at the surface of the earth.
	What may be the use of volcanoes in the economy of nature, we can not say, but they may be an important appendage for the safety of the globe, and that they serve some useful purpose is inferred from their being the continuance of the wise architect of the Universe.
26	Wednesday Cloudy morn, with some rain and wind at NE, the day mostly cloudy & cool.
Boston sickness of	We are informed that sickness to an unusual extent prevails in Boston, supposed to have been caused by the heat of the season: the diseases are abdominal, or choleric and in some instances resembling the cholera of Asia: if this be true, why are not

August 26 not our more southern cities infested with similar diseases?

Asiatic cholera

The origin of the Asiatic cholera and its progress there to other countries, are not satisfactory explained, nor does it seem~~ed~~ to be confirmed to warm countries. Its appearance in Canada a few years since, shows that it is not confined to hot climates; and if so why may it not originate at Boston as well as at other northern places. If it is owing to a crowded population or some peculiarities of living, then these circumstances demand attention to avoid the consequences: and it has often been a question with me, whether we are wise in seeking clustered habitations in this country if so extended as surface.

Reflections

But the fact is that the life of man is limited to a short space, and that where ever he may reside maladies will be found, fated to bring continuance and, or beyond the limits proscribed by the laws of nature~

Offen's Legacy

The following work has been laid on my Table, by one of the [ ] of this village. A Legacy to the friends of Free Discussion: being a Review of the principal historical parts and personages of the Books known by the Old & New Testament; with Remarks on the morality of nature: By Benja. Offen of N. York, recently published in Boston 1 vol.

Design of

The main object of the Book, the writer says, is to show that Jehovah the God of the Jews, is not the sovereign Ruler of the Universe, but a fictitious being, having no real existence whatever; and that the Bible including the old & new testament

is

August 26 is not a Divine Revelation. But the limits of the work, he says, will only admit of a more scanting of what might be written on the subject.

Character of The work is highly Diestical, but written with considerable ability and candor, and so far as relates to the Pentateuch of Moses, not unworthy of consideration. The [ ] of the writer, against recorded miracles, I think, are inconclusive. These miracles may be assented to when the evidence is sufficiently strange and the object which they are to establish of importance to the world. What will be the effect of such publication in this country, is a question. But one thing I think is certain. Viz: That no system of religion can long be sustained where the press is free, unless it be [ ] from [ ] absurdities & rendered consistent with unadulterated reason. But on this point probably man never will agree.

If however men agree on the fundamental points, entering a conviction of the existence of an omnipotent and benevolent being, who created & govern the Universe, by [ ] laws the obligations of morality, and the duties of members of enlightened society, in its laudable forms, they cannot fall far short of the intentions of their Creator, who requires of his [ ] nothing beyond the [ ] given them. And this is sometimes by one apostolic writer who says, "Pure religion and undefiled before God & the Father is this—To visit the fatherless & widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James Chapter 1st 27 verses

August 26

Mr. Norton's work

This view of the Jewish laws

In his investigation of the Jewish absurdities found in the Pentateuch some other parts of the Bible, the Mr. Offen seems to forget others that are commendable and sometimes partaking of the sublime. Had he taken the course of Mr. Norton in his Genuineness of the Gospels, he would have [ ] many to the truths Mr. Norton says, the Pentateuch is a compilation made some centuries after the death of Moses, and that some of the transactions [ ] to be by the order of the Deity, are totally inconsistent with the benevolence as now taught by the Christian religion. And he adds—"In considering their book we must divest our selves if the Jewish nation of their divine [ ]; or in other words, we must divest ourselves of the belief that the Truth of all the facts which they relate, and of all the sentiments which their writers express, rest on the authority of God. When viewed under this aspect they excite constant objections and present occasions of scandal. In the books of Joshua and Judges, Mr. Norton says, "There is evident by a great mixture of [ ] tradition such as are found in the [ ] history of all other Nations. In the Jewish histories, he adds, "The conclusion that in them are many accounts of miracles not to be credited has no bearing whatsoever our religious faith nor morals. See Note D in the 2d Vol.

Had Mr. Offen pursued the course of Mr. Norton and cut away the fungus which has infected that history & returned the better parts, his work could have found more friends;

August 26 and until this process we adopted Christianity and confined strong opposers and faith and mystery but feeble supports. The attempt to sustain Calvinistic Christianity in this country of free presses, is ~~impossible~~ futile, and it behooves the friends of Christianity to embrace a system tem that shall no longer oppose and oppose the good sense of mankind.

27 Thursday Morn cloudy, but soon cleared off, wind SW, the day fair warmer than yesterday.

Our army commander

We have no recent account of any important movements of Gen. Taylor's army and the invasion of Mexico. The troops, say the latest accounts, are healthy, but this is improbable and I fear we shall soon hear of fatal maladies among the new corps ~~troops~~. Should they escape sickness it would be [ ] in a hot climate. We now and then seen accounts of marches made through mud and water communicated in letters from the volunteers, the fatigues of [ ] had not entered their mind before they left their homes, to whip the Mexicans in the invasion of the City of Montezuma. Several corps that have returned home by the President's orders, bring with them full compliments of the cruelty & hardships put upon them by government. This is [ ] to men who have mistaken militia field spirit for camp service. By this time Gen. Taylor is able to judge of the camp service of volunteers, and would, if left to his own feelings, consent that they should visit their homes.

August 27

Democratic nations

At the commencement of the war it would have been difficult to select a democrat who believed that this "Star spangled banner" of liberty would not at this time been waving in glorious triumph from the highest spot of the city of Mexico. Such is the profound ignorance of our people of the [ ] of war. They may now learn that numbers and enthusiasm may exist and yet a nation remains a feeble military power.

Real strength of nation

Before we boast of our military prowess we must give up our childish prattle about our prowess in arms, and learn that the military strength of a nation, consists of the number of of enlisted men that can be disciplined, subsisted, paid, and clothed. Volunteers by and this, are not soldiers; nor do they add to the strength of nations in a military point of view.

28

Friday Fair morn wind NW, followed by warm & fair day.

The earthquake noticed at [ ]

The Earthquake noticed (page 282, Tuesday last) was perceived in Eastern parts of New England, but no where as violent at Boston, the rattling of doors, and windows [ ] were perceived, and the oscillation of the walls of houses was distinctly visible. (doubtful). At Jamaica Plain a chimney is seen to have been shaken down, and at Worcester the bells in houses were rung. The magnetic intensity at the observatory at Cambridge, is said to have been greatly disturbed by the shock. This I think is probable; but we want the particulars more minutely stated.

August 28

Perhaps from a distant source

Volcanoes

Intervals of Repose

Vesuvius & Etna

The vibration felt in New-England, may have been from a volcanic explosion at some distant place where the shock may have been violent and even distinctive; and if so, we may look for details on the news papers, and probably ~~[ ] [ ]~~ the shock on volcanic regions ~~for the source~~ of America.

This is best conjections, based on the fact that no volcanoes or old craters indisputably volcanic are found in the Northern States. But, Earthquakes, I believe, have occurred here, that have not been tied to distant sources; and it does not here follow that this section of country will forever remain exempted from volcanic agencies.

The History of volcanoes shows that they have long periods of repose, then suddenly burst out in violent eruptions. I am the building of Rome, 7537 years B.C. to 79 years A.D.no mention is made of volcanoes, though it had evidently been in a prior state of activity, as Herculaneum and Pompeii destroyed by the erupting of that Vesuvius paved with lava. From the 12th to the 16th century, nearly 400 years, it remained quiet, and the crater was overgrown with lofty trees prior to the quiet eruption of 1631; but Etna has continued [ ] since the time of Pinder (who died 435 years B.C.) but with [ ] intervals [ ] [ ] 30 or 40 years. For the last 2 centuries eruption of the Peak of Tenerisse have been very rare. See Bakunell Chap. 13. Other volcanoes are subject to intervals of repose. But if one Globe

August 28

Earth in progress to repose

has been in a formative state, and volcanoes have been less numerous, may we not conclude that the process is now approaching its amplification and that in practice the Earth will become more tranquil? Of this [ ] we can [ ] from [ ] conjunctions; and for any thing we know, volcanic agency may increase and new vents work be opened where none now exist. But the machine of the Universe is under the care of a wise Governor; and whatever may take place we may be sure will be consistent ~~with~~ with [ ] wisdom and goodness.

29

Saturday Morn cloudy, but soon fair; wind SW. Masses of clouds indicating showers past us; and attended with thunder south of us.

Rail road passengers

The village of Bloody brook is the Depot of our southern stage coaches when they arrive and depart [ ] day. A passenger leaves Boston about 7 o'clock and arrives at the depot at 4:40 PM and at our village by coach between 5 and 6 PM. Such rapidity may be convenient for mere business men not so for those who journey for pleasure and wish to view the country.

For the rapid traveling we are indebted to Steam power & its application to Navigations not less wonderful. A passenger from London to our village may now be made under 16 or 17 days. What next!

Dr. Prier of England in his investigation remarks on our revolution & the structure of our governments predicted great [ ] in courts & served but I believe he hardly dreamed of the power application of the steam engine to the purpose of transportation by land

or

August 29 or water; nor of transmitting visitings by Electro magnetic shocks through continuous [ ] of almost any extent.

Remarks Truly man has much wonderful advances in arts and sciences, which to the unphilosophic eye appear superhuman, But confined as his operation and to ~~the globe~~ our planet, he is extending his speculation to others of the solar system, and by his improved telescopes is pushing ~~extending~~ his views to the confines of the universe, where other [ ] are giving light to other planets circulating [ ] around them by the laws of gravitation & projection; and numerous nebulae of unbounded extent are seen in all parts of the giant sphere, of whose dimension we can form no adequate conceptions.[36] What astounding thought! An astronomer says, "When we attempt, in imagination, to fathom this abyss, it is in vain to think of prescribing any limits to the Universe, and the mind reverts involuntarily to the insignificant portion of it which we are destined to occupy."[37]

But with all of his improvements "A man's a man for a' that." Or as the Poet says of Newton.

"Could he, when rules the rapid comet bind
Describe or fix one movement of his mind?
Who saw its fires here rise, and there descend,
Explain his own beginning, or his end?

Alas

[36] Hoyt refers to the discovery of Neptune, officially observed in September of 1846, but was mathematically predicted and searched for since 1845. At the time Hoyt was writing this entry, different teams in England and Germany were looking for Neptune.

[37] From John Farrar's *An elementary treatise on astronomy, adapted to the present improved state of the science …* 1827.

August 29 Alas what wonder! Man's superior part
Uncheck'd may rise, and climb from art to art;
But when his own great work is but begun,
What Reason weaves, by Passion is undone."[38]

30 Sunday Fair morn, and S.W. wind warm air
Dense clouds passed south of in the afternoon, leaving the appearance of a shower but the day continued fair. At night very clear sky

31 Monday Fair morn, wind SW followed by a fair day, one pretty hot.

The volunteer army

My predictions concerning the folly of employing volunteer corps of Militia in carrying on a war, are daily fulfilling in the army on the Rio Grand. Letter of the 30th Ult. and 2d of August, give accounts of a fracas at the Camp at Belknap , a true specimen of volunteer insubordination & confusion.

Confusion in camp Belknap

A Col. commanding a Brigade (Mitchel) who given some order to his men, was disobeyed attacked, disarmed, and with much difficulty saved his life, and the troops of different corps came very near engaging in a bloody conflict. The Col. escaped their daggers & rifles, and set out for the camp of Gen. Taylor to [ ] the meeting, and what will be the result ~~is~~ was uncertain.

One of the letters (from a volunteer to his Brethren) says—"When I volunteered it was to fight and not to be idle for a year. But I now find that the regulars are to be able to defend any pass of danger. Taylor says, one regular is worth five volunteers, and that he only wants volunteers for

a

August 31 a stand by. It would seem that we are kept mainly to the drudging; and such is the case; and the writer tells his brethren not to be surprised if he should see him in Cincinnati in the course of six weeks.

Another letter (from a volunteer) says—"We were all full of fight, and firmly believe that our 600 Baltimorians could have whipped the whole 2500 Ohioans: Dem Wells had taken dead aim at the Colonel, and would have blown him sky high; had it not have been Mr. Charles Ehrman who struck his musket."

This irregularity excites not surprise in me, and it has rather been a wonder that such & even worse compassion has not occurred before this time. Gen. Taylor must try this time, find full employment for his regular troops. in keeping down mutiny in his camps, and without fighting the Mexicans.

Gen. Scott probably foresaw this confusion when he expressed to the President, his willingness to be rescued from the command of the army composed of such materials; and [ ] Washington's caution that no officer who has any regard for his character; or peace of mind should risk them by attempting to command such troops. (See his official Letters); and yet these are the species of troops we are to rely on in case of war. What stupidity! The genuine front of a total ignorance of war is its elements by a majority of our people.

Capt. Webster Where is Capt. Edward Webster with the honors conferred upon him by Democracy as "the patriotic service in raising a company of volunteers" for this "glorious war"? If he

August 31

His misplaced zeal

still retain his enthusiasm for military service, let him enter upon the lessons of the war taught by Washington and other able commanders, and not rely on the flirts of a militia corps on Boston Common, to the tune of a brass band or other fopping which has so long infested our militia corps, and none in a higher degree than those at the City of Boston.

Was Young Webster stimulated to this course by advice of his Father? This we will not believe. If his Father consented, it was probably to cure his puerile propensity, and nothing could have been more thorough than field service in the climate of Mexico with volunteers, who should elect their officers, who would submit to their views, expressed scheme, said Gen. Mercer of our revolutionary war, "that will forever mar the discipline of armies and not less repudiated by Gen. Washington.

Study of the art of war

[ ] in the present state of the world

A discourse of study in the art of war is not [ ] to be deemed as useless part of the education of young gentlemen ~~men~~. So long as wars are unavoidable, the study of its principles is necessary, and even noble; but it should be confined to wars of defense, any other being wholly unjustificated &c. Cases may indeed occur in which it becomes proper to invade a neighboring nation as when it disregards the rules of national morality and becomes robbers & pirates as was the case of Algiers prior to its conquest by the French; But in such cases the war is strictly defensive & justified. But when the study is [ ] on false principles ~~[——]~~ and becomes impaired, and no better than [ ] of [ ] as in our present militia system

August 31

or is of little or no worth, and adds nothing to the strength of a country. If we rely on arms to redress our wrongs, we [ ] be prepared to use them in an effective manner; and so long as other nations who may attack us, keep up regular forces instructed in the all the arts & sciences of war, we cannot successfully oppose them without increase on regular force to such an extent as will insure our defense [ ] to rely on volunteer corps of militia for this purpose, is preposterous.

Regular troops the only safe defense

In time of peace our regular army may be small, but we should adapt such a [ ] system as will, at all times, enable us to increase the army to any exigencies.

September 1

Tuesday Morn fair and wind SW, and a fair day & warm air.

A volunteer parade is to be formed at Bloody Brook this day & [ ] for drill & camp duty, at which Adjutant General Oliver is to attend. More protracted parades of this kind might be useful, were the corps constituted of the right sort of men and officers possessing a taste for tactical strategies. Gen Oliver, I think, is able to impart useful instruction; but 2 or 3 days afford little opportunity to give it. In all our parades of this sort, little time for [ ] for imparting the great principles of military subordination and implicit measured obedience of orders, which are formed many regular troops; and this fundamental part of discipline is almost wholly unknown on the militia and in [ ] is seen that

Volunteer parade

September 1 great difference between the disciplined soldiers and the Citizen difference not perceived by the unmilitary eye; but at once observed by the experienced

Remarks on officer.

A volunteer corps may be expert in the manual exercise and ready in some of movements on parade; but unless the men are imbued with these fundamental

Imperfection qualities, they have little claim to the character of soldiers. In a word without

of volunteers due subordination regulated obedience, they [ ] [ ] [ ] as the [ ] [ ] and totally unfit for military service.

If Gen. Taylor finds his volunteers of a different character, they are exceptions to the common race of men. But by this time, we believe the General knows how to estimate them and will hardly ask the President for an increase of volunteer Corps. The recent disturbance at Camp Belknap is but a small specimen of volunteer discipline Gen Taylor will not with before their term of service expires.

2 Wednesday. Fair morn with N.W. wind & fog on the mountains promising a fine day for the militia sport at Bloody Brook. The day was clear and hot, and many of our young people, [ ] by the novelty of a tented camp are walking to the ground to witness the [ ]. Well! it is [ ] form. Bella! Horrida Bella! as seen as its mildest form, resembling a group of covered vehicles in a camp of immigrants [ ] this march to a distant country

are

September 2 are amid the reign of [ ] Peace, what lover of his country desires to see this aspect change from the iron [ ] of a disciplined camp, where implicit obedience to orders is taught as the highest virtue, and the soldiers have nothing beyond obedience to their commanders and to stand, advance or retreat at the word of command.

3 Thursday Morn cloudy—wind SW, but the sun appeared before noon. PM fair and cloudy alternately, last generally the latter.

Railroad accidents

The account of accidents on the rail roads in various parts of the country, are more frequent than I had anticipated and perhaps they cannot be avoided by all the precautions may continue.

We have just heard of one at Cabottsville in which a [ ] walking on the road has been [ ] cut in pieces. As the passing engine & cars: the particulars we have not obtained. The road east of our village will cut off our passages to our cow pastures, and endanger our boys when driving the cows to & from them: and though the times of passage may be fixed, yet some variation will sometimes happen, unlooked for. [ ] [ ] it is supposed will be made each day, two in the forenoon & two in the afternoon, and there must be carefully [ ] [ ] the intersectry roads pass on the same level; and who will think

Septr 3

[ ] intrust this caution to children-our young lads! We may then look for accidents in our vicinity and I am not without apprehensions that others will occur from the embankments on the [ ] route chosen over dangerous [——] ravines that might and ought to have been [ ]

Anticipation

Thirty years prior, our people may inquire what have been the advantages derived from the passage of the rail road through this town? For the road may give passage to a greater number of people than now pass through the village; but what shall we see or know of them, excepting the smoke and glimpsing of the engine & cars. For them rapid passage!

_____

Note on the weather

Note—The weather is [ ][ ] very hot, and several [ ] have lately arrived. In the absence of the sun we look for cool air, but this does not always follow: in these cases the heat desires to exist on the ground and lower atmosphere but why there is there not a descent of the cooler upper air as I think is generally the case in [ ] showers.

4

Friday Morn thickly cloudy, hot air, and wind SW. Last night was very hot, throughout and a spoonful of rain fell, [ ] by big the dust of the roads. PM fair & many detached clouds from which came some rain of short duration.

Septr. 4 Mr. Polk's army for "conquering a Peace with Mexico" has as yet made but small progress in the accomplishment of that object. By this time, he has found

The Army that an army of volunteers is not quite so ready for an invasion as his democrats had supposed. Mr. Senator Hanigan will probably demand leave to pass into the orderly book of the war office in order to explain the "delays" of Mr. Polk in the march of our army to the City of Mexico. Who ever thought

Slow progress of that democratic volunteers required, beef, pork, bread for subsistence, as waggon trains, [ ] &c. to transport at them? Gen. Jackson's reason permitted such delays, but when in a starving condition, he fed his troops on acorns, and [ ] favored the inevitability of the slow operation of a commissariat department. A grand improvement!

5 Saturday Fair morn, wind SW and the day fair & hot, but a refreshing breeze prevailed before sunset, rendering the heat less oppressive, though the breeze may have had no effect on the thermometer exposed to its current.

6 Sunday. Fair morn, wind S.W.; a small shower last night with some thunder. The night hot; day continued fair & very hot throughout.

If

Septr. 6

Of the Army on the Rio Grand

Sickness unavoidable

[ ] troops

If the excess of heat we have felt the week past, prevails in the country on the Rio Grand, we may look for account of severe sickness among Gen. Taylor's volunteers and we already have of the arrival of a steamer at N Orleans with 100 men on the sick list. ([ ] of the arrival the 23d ult) This probably is but a small portion of the sick in the camps; and it would not excite our surprise were the numbers increase to thousands in the camp of this and the next month. Probably the regulars will suffer less, they having been habituated to a camp life. This consideration seems to have been overlooked by our wild democratic writers, who have formed their opinions of military discipline from the display of volunteer corps on their home parades, where lessons on liberty and equality are considered testament to mechanical ability and due subordination to their officers without which an army is but a disorderly rabble, ~~and [ ] the~~ affording food for disease and death in their not fatal forms, and particularly in hot climates. Where on the Poet says,

"Death his vast sithe with sweep enormous wields,
And shuddering Pity quits the sanguine fields."[39]

The objects of the war are well understood, and if several thousand of our young men parish by sickness we shall be compensated by the annexation of North Mexico to our Union, and the blessings of democratic liberty diffused over the country, in its [ ]

[39] From Erasmus Darwin's *Temple of Nature, Canto IV, Of Good and Evil*, 1803.

Septr. 6 [ ] in which the "rights of man" are no longer to be restrained by the "war eater" rules and maxims of former times.

7 Monday Foggy morn, wind West; clear at 10 AM and the air very warm. PM wind SW, and cumulus mass of purely white clouds, move across the heavens,

No Showers indicating thunder showers, but none arrived—the day very hot, and it is singular that we have no thunder showers; but a singularity I have noticed in several past years. Is electricity becoming quiescent by an equal diffusion through the earth and atmosphere? Contrary to its former phenomena which

Query seem to be well explained by Dr. Franklin's plus & minus theory, which, I am [ ], is not admitted by some late electricians, who contend for two antagonistic fluids rushing together, in the electric shock and their causing [ ]

8 Tuesday, Morn fair, wind S.W. and still warm air prevails: sun about 6°N. declination. What a difference in this temperature and that of April, when the declination is the same! The day was hot & fair with scattering clouds.

This day My Son Arthur left us for Plattsburg (State of N. York) where he is to join Mr. Hayward the Engineer of the Rail road to be constructed below in that place & Ogdensburgh this takes with him my grandson Robert B. Williams.

Septr. 8 with the intention of finding him employment as a draftsman, of which he has acquired pretty good skills or otherwise

My son on a rail road at Plattsburg

My son's disappointment in not obtaining the appointment of Engineer on our rail road from Northampton to Greenfield, has been mortifying to his feelings, and I was fearful it might produce an unfavorable depression of his mind. But he has borne the disappointment with commendable firmness, and, I hope, his now obtained an appointment where he may be useful to his imployers, as well as to himself.

The proposed route of the road I am informed is about 116 miles a considerable portion of which is through an inclined country, where its winter is severe. The task is arduous, one requires hardy and resolute men, who shrink not at trifles. Tomorrow his wife and his little Charles leave us for Halifax where they expect to reside some time at her father's house.

The changes of my family since the death of my wife have been frequent & rather annoying to the repose my age required; but I have met with kind treatment, and, in general, with respectable associates, from whom I have parted with [ ].

My present family, composed of Mr. Foster, wife, and their children is agreeable & interesting, and the children afford me much entertainment; and I hope nothing will occur to mar the good feelings which have thus far prevailed. In our [ ] the air of kind friends and hope they will never be found wanting.

Septr. 9

The weather

Effects of a change from hot to cool

Explanation suggested

Wednesday Morn fair, wind N.E. and the air much cooler than it has been for some days past; Day continued fair & cool and pleasant. Probably the hot season has terminated, and northerly winds will prevail, bringing air from colder regions. When this first occurs there is a sort of severity in the aspect, which produces a kind of Gloominess, or expression of the animal spirits, for which I cannot readily account; but the fact I have long noticed and perhaps it is peculiar to myself. If the affection is general, there must be some predisposing cause.

May we say, that during the hot weather, when we are in a proper perspiration, a debilitating diathesis is induced, which disposes the mind. to light or fanciful reflections, and that when this diathesis abates, or ceases, and the mind is restored to more sedate reflections, it views objects less fancifully; and thus divested of an imaginative gloss, they appear less brilliant, but in fact more in their true character which at first, compared with their fanciful aspect, appear gloomy?

I am not certain, however, that this explanation affords a true [ ] of the phenomena, but it may answer until a more sound one is suggested; and the mind is not at ease without some explanation.

Septr. 10

Thursday Fair morn, wind W. and cool air, rendering a fire necessary in my room. Last night the air was not much above frost temperature. The day fair & pleasant, and in the afternoon wind easterly (Uncommon)

Failure of the Telegraph

The Telegraph. Various accidents as I had anticipated, prevent the operation of this ingenious machine. In a later thunder storm 12 or 20 of the telegraph-ports, between Northboro and Southboro, were struck by lightning, and many of them split down to the ground; the wind in one instance, was [ ].

The shock was felt at the Telegraph office at Boston, where it produced quite an explosion (Boston paper Septr 5th)

From various causes

In the same paper it is said, that the Telegraph between Boston and New York has been in working order, only a very little time since it was completed. The trouble is between N. York and N. Haven; and the N. Haven Palladium says, the derangement results principally from a crossing of the wires between the two cities, but where and how thus far, has baffled every effort at detection. The consequence is, the fluid separates & passes from one wire to both the others in its progress from New Haven to N. York, constantly changing the certain & constant action of the line.

Remarks on

My opinion of the practicability of the machine I have heretofore expressed, and its frequent failures do not surprise me; and the project of extending the line to New Orleans is preposterous. The theory of the electric shock is supposed to be understood, but perhaps not properly. The machine, I think,

Septr. 10

cannot be relied on, but on line of moderate extents, It cannot be kept in working order; and, since mail are transported on rail roads, all useful means of conveyance may be obtained by them.

Not a necessary machine

Turn a friend to improvements, and believe that many are yet to be discovered & to be applied to useful purposes; but when they are more curious than useful, I would hold them in their true character, as specimens of the ingenuity of their [ ], and thus for I applaud Mr. Morse for his great ingenuity, and skill regret his disappointment in case of a failure of his machine, which I fear will be the result.

General remarks on machine

In all cases of very complex machines I entertain doubts of their success in practice, for they generally fail. The steam engine for navigation, is however an exception. This machine though complex answers the design for which it was intended, but is liable to sad disasters; and whether it can be rendered safe is yet to be determined. But as a general rule, we are safe in saying, Simple machines are the safest & best. Take for example the old saw-mill, which is [ ] a single wheel and crank, and the useful effect is hardly executed by any machines. And when I hear of steam saw-mills I have little confidence in their successful operations. The raising water from wells the old sweep pole & bucket, are preferable to the pump or any other contrivance I have used and when out of order it is easily repaired.

Simple the best

Septr. 11 (306)

Few [ ] of our Army

Starting rumors of a peace

Probable condition of

12

13

Friday Morn thinly cloudy, wind W & SW the day fair with moderate air; and though a fire was agreeable in the morning, the afternoon was rather warm. We obtain very little information of our army in Mexico; but rumors are afloat that a sort of revolution has taken place in the government of that country, from which it is conjected that the war will be of short duration, in which our Mr. Polk will file in a heavy bill of cost to be discharged by a levy on a large portion of the Mexican territory, to be annexed to our Union as a nursery for slavery, where liberty is to "flourish and blossom like the rose", under a government of "equal rights", which holds that all men are "born free", and that the African race are but bipids without souls, created for the service of the white people. What a [ ]! I leave it to southern democrats to clear it away.

Saturday Fair morn wind SW and warm air, but soon became cloudy indicating rain, but none arrived, and the day was pretty hot.

Sunday. Fair morn wind N a little rain fell overnight; day very clear and pretty hot. This return of hot weather I had not expected.

Septr. 14 — Monday Fine morn wind W and a hot day for September.

Letter to Mr. Gassett — Sent a letter to Henry Gassett Esq. Boston, by David S. Hoyt, in answer to his of the 25th July last, in which I have expressed my opinion [ ] on the the Odd Fellows society, which is now engrossing the attention of our young [ ] men, as well as some other of more advanced age, who are the willing dupes of those who have some sinister objects in view not understood by the people at large.

On Odd Fellowship &c.

Remarks on — This society is a [ ] from dead freemasonry, and bids fair to equal its [ ] ⊦ ⊦ and parasitic [ ]. Mr. Gassett is one of the old veterans of Boston, who distinguished himself in the war against freemasonry, and will understand the nature of secret societies and From the time of my letter he will see that I apprehend another struggle will be necessary to put down popular error for the people from secret influence which strikes at the root of our liberties. Already has the fraternity became so bold as to ask the Legislature for acts of incorporation; but the good sense of the Legislature has therefore, defeated their design

Societies

Septr.
[1]4

[ ]
[S]oci[e]ties

(page 308)
Sept

Societies have become numerous in this country and some are in laudable processes such as the intended promotion of general knowledge, and to check gross errors; but the moment they become secret, adopt private tokens and obligations to favor each other they are dangerous to community and ought to be opposed by all the friends of good order. When secret societies of this kind are introduced, law and courts of justice become a farce, the rights of the people are in jeopardy and the grossest crimes may go unpunished. This may not be the design of the honest members, but it is the direct tendency of the scheme, as every discriminating man will at once perceive. Under the inviting garb of brotherly protection honest young men will be induced to join the odd fellows lest they should remember that such admission, and by their arts of deception sometimes obtain it in which case honest members may find themselves linked to crime, at which they would recoil with horror were they [ ] by [ ] passed on them in lodges

At notification for an annual meeting of members (delegates from all the Grand Lodges of odd fellows of the States) onthe 20th instant is inserted in the papers. The No. said to be 50, and Baltimore the place. This the Pageant goes on!—But "it is a harmless benevolent society"

(See continuations)